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LANDSLIDE VICTORY FOR RAJIV

Family record for Mrs Gandhi's son

By DAVID CRAVES in New Delhi

MR Rajiv Gandhi was last night poised to lead his congress (Indira) party to an historic victory in the Indian general election, according to computer forecasts based in the first declared results.

It was predicted that he would win 50 per cent. of the popular vote for the first time—a feat never achieved by his grandfather, Mr Jawaharlal Nehru or his mother, Mrs Indira Gandhi.

Computer forecasts given by the state-run television service predicted that the Congress (I) would win 560, and possibly more than 400 of the 503 constituencies in which voting was held.

The Congress (I) landslide became apparent as soon as the first results were announced, and was only halted in three of the 20 states by opposition parties.

Jubilant Congress (I) supporters last night thronged the streets of New Delhi in a cavalcade of cars and lorries to celebrate the victory of India's youngest-ever Prime Minister.

Mr Gandhi spent his day of triumph working quietly at 1, Safdarjung Road, his official office in the Indian capital.

Initial indications were that all but one of the major opposition party leaders were heading for defeat.

Only Mr Charan Singh, 82, the former Prime Minister and

leader of the Dalit Krishak Mazdoor party, seemed certain to retain his seat at Bagpat, in Uttar Pradesh.

Mr Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the former Foreign Minister in the Janata Government, and president of the Right-wing Bharatiya Janata party, was defeated in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh, by the Prince of Gwalior, a surprise last-minute candidate for the ruling party.

In Bangalore north in Karnataka, Mr George Fernandes, Secretary General of the Janata party, was defeated by his Congress (I) rival.

The only major setback to the landslide of the Congress (I) came in the southern state of Andhra Pradesh where strong opposition from the local Telugu Desam party led by Mr N. T. Rama Rao, a former film star, caused a 15 per cent. swing against Mr Gandhi's party.

Mr P. V. Narasimha Rao,

Continued on Back P. Col 5

2,000 accept shipyard redundancy offer

By JOHN PETTY Shipping Correspondent

MORE than 2,000 men have volunteered for redundancy at the Swan Hunter shipyards on the Tyne, surprising news and angering union leaders who were ready to strike over management calls for cuts.

Payments will average only between £2,000 and £3,000 a man, union officials say.

Management gave warning a few weeks ago that lack of orders meant 2,000 redundancies would be needed in February. Now it will clearly achieve the target.

Other obituaries—P8.

Sterling drifts to new low

By CLIFFORD GERMAN Financial Correspondent

THE pound drifted to yet another all-time low against the dollar yesterday and interest rates in the London money markets edged nervously higher.

But share prices ignored the implicit threat of dearer money and the FINANCIAL TIMES 30-Share Index climbed steadily to close 16.2 higher at an all time high of 945.2.

The pound was quoted as low as \$1.570 soon after trading began in Europe, reflecting fears of an oil price war which would erode the Chancellor's oil revenues from the North Sea.

It staged a partial recovery but still closed at \$1.627 in London, 16 points below the previous low on Thursday.

Commercial demand was almost entirely for dollars, as the impression spread that American interest rates will fall no further immediately.

Deposit costs

The fall in sterling affected interest rates, with some quotations rising up to 3/16 before settling back to about 1/16 per cent. higher on the day.

The cost of three-month deposits in the inter-bank market on which Barclays Bank always its base rates, rose 1/16 per cent. to about 5/16 per cent. over the past month.

Up to this level base rates, which range from 9 1/2 to 9 3/4 per cent. are safe. But a further rise in the cost of money in the market could put upward pressure on the pound.

Prices of British Government fixed interest stocks drifted by up to 1/2 p in early trading as a result of the events in the foreign exchange and money markets.

But investors continued to ignore these events entirely, or to assume that a weaker pound represents a selective stimulus to sales of British goods without any corresponding risk of dearer money or higher inflation.

REAGAN VIEW

Argument disputed

DAVID SHEARS in WASHINGTON writes: President Reagan's argument that the high dollar is overvalued and that America should take action to lower its level on world currency markets.

In answers to written questions from a Japanese newspaper, Mr Reagan said that arguments that the high dollar threatens the global recovery were not supported by the facts. During his administration, interest rates had not generally played a major role in determining exchange rates.

City Comment—P17

Editorial Comment—P14

U.S. ECONOMY

STARTING TO PICK UP AGAIN

By Our Washington Staff

Further evidence that the American economy is picking up momentum again after its slow-down of recent months came yesterday from the official Government barometer of economic trends.

The index of leading economic indicators, a composite of 12 forward-looking economic measurements, climbed 1.3 per cent. in November, its biggest gain in nine months.

But at the same time the Commerce Department reported that the American merchandise trade deficit reached \$9.9 billion (\$8.5 billion last month), rising more than seven per cent. over the October level.

For the whole January-November period the trade gap was \$115.4 billion (almost £100 billion), an increase of over last year's record trade deficit of \$68.4 billion (almost £60 billion). The surge value of the dollar is largely to blame.

City report—P17

Continued on Back P. Col 6

REAGAN WARNS AGAINST ARMS TALKS OPTIMISM

By Our Staff Correspondent in Los Angeles

President Reagan cautioned yesterday against hopes being raised too high for the Soviet-American arms control talks between his Secretary of State, Mr Shultz, and the Soviet Foreign Minister, Mr Gromyko, in Geneva next month.

“A two day meeting cannot solve the complicated issues before us,” he said in an interview with a Japanese newspaper.

“We hope it will be a constructive beginning for further detailed negotiations. But it isn't an easy job.”



The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Runcie, looking at a copy of the Koran, a gift from Col Gaddafi, which the Archbishop's special envoy, Mr Terry Waite, handed to him in Canterbury yesterday on his return from Libya. Mr Waite informed him of his efforts to secure the release of the four detained Britons. Report—Back Page.

Minister 'knew of priest kidnap plot'

By ROBIN GEDYE Diplomatic Staff

A POLISH deputy Interior Minister was aware of the kidnapping plot which resulted in the death of Father Jerzy Popieluszko, the pro-Solidarity priest, according to one of the policemen accused of his murder.

But Lt. Leszek Pekala, 32, giving evidence yesterday on the second day of the Warsaw trial of four policemen charged in connection with the murder of Father Popieluszko, did not name the Minister.

Lt. Pekala also withdrew allegations that the Minister had approved the murder, as he had been told about him by Capt. Grzegorz Piotrowski, 33, one of the four security policemen on trial.

There are six officials of deputy ministerial rank at the Interior Ministry, according to the government spokesman's office.

Lt. Pekala, Lt. Waldemar Chmielewski, 29, and Capt. Piotrowski are charged with murdering the priest. Their Interior Ministry superior, Col Adam Pietruszka, 47, is charged with inciting them.

Lt. Pekala, the first of the four accused to give evidence, referred to other possible victims, including Father Henryk Jankowski, Lech Walesa's priest and adviser.

He denied that the policeman intended to kill Father Popieluszko.

“It was to have been an abduction with the possibility of jeopardising his health. It was never intended that he should die,” Lt. Pekala said.

He said that the priest, kidnapped on Oct. 19, pleaded for mercy crying “spare my life you people,” before being beaten unconscious.

He was beaten four times. Continued on Back P. Col 6

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BEAUFORT GRAVE ARRESTS

By GRAHAM JONES

A WOMAN and four men were being questioned last night by detectives investigating the attempt to dig up the body of the 10th Duke of Beaufort, from its grave in the grounds of Badminton House, Glos., on Christmas night.

The five were held during raids in Edmonstone, North London, and Hertfordshire by Avon and Somerset and Hertfordshire police.

After questioning at Hertford, the five were taken to Staple Hill police station, north Bristol.

Charges under the Burial Act of 1857 are expected today.

Among items recovered by the police was the simple wooden cross erected by an estate worker to mark the grave of the hunting duke, who was a friend of the Queen.

The 10th duke, who founded the Badminton Horse Trials, was buried in the Beaufort Hunt for many years, died in February aged 83.

Two adults and two juveniles were charged at Grimsby magistrates court yesterday with damaging a turkey at a local store on Dec. 5 and “being reckless as to whether life would be endangered by their actions.” All were remanded for a week, with the adults being held in custody.

‘Turkey damage’ charge

Two adults and two juveniles were charged at Grimsby magistrates court yesterday with damaging a turkey at a local store on Dec. 5 and “being reckless as to whether life would be endangered by their actions.” All were remanded for a week, with the adults being held in custody.

‘Brick wall’

Fog and ice held much of Britain in a tight wintry grip last night. At one stage visibility was down to ten yards at the junction of the M25 London orbital motorway with the A1 and A6 at South Mimms, Hertfordshire.

It's like driving into a brick wall—certainly the worst fog reported this winter and probably for years, an AA spokesman said.

The fog also caused several flights at Heathrow Airport to be cancelled or diverted.

City details—P18

Today's Weather

GENERAL STRATTON: Pressure will remain high in S.E. with frontal trough becoming slow moving in N. and W. parts.

LOWLANDS: S.E. ENGLAND, E. ANGLIA: Dry, fog mostly clearing, sunny period; developing, mainly S. light. Rather cold, max 41F (5C).

CEN. S. ENGLAND, MIDLANDS, CHANNEL ISLANDS: Fog patches first, becoming rather cloudy with a little rain or drizzle in places. Wind S. light or moderate, 43F (6C).

S.W. ENGLAND, S. WALES: Mostly cloudy, rain or drizzle at times, hill and coastal fog. Wind S. moderate or fresh, 48F (9C).

S. NORTH SEA, STRAIT OF DOVER: Wind S. force 1 becoming 4-5. Sea: smooth, becoming moderate.

OUTLOOK: Remaining mostly cold and dry in S.E. with overnight ice and frost. Rain at times in N. and W.

Weather Map—P25

NCB hopes to repeat 'back to work' surge

By STEPHEN WARD Industrial Staff

THE Coal Board is hoping that a renewed publicity campaign beginning on Monday will attract striking miners back to work at the same rate as the last big “push” in November.

Press advertisements and letters to miners' homes will point out, with a “carrot and stick” approach, the advantages of returning to work.

The “carrot” is the prospect of tax-free earnings up to the end of the financial year on March 31.

A married man is allowed to earn up to £3,115 in any year before he starts to pay income tax.

Average gross earnings of miners are £183 a week, which means they can expect total gross earnings of £2,378 between January and the end of March, 1985.

The £238 in holiday allowances which miners can claim when they have been back for four weeks will also be tax-free, taking the average amount miners will earn during the first quarter of 1985 to £2,667.

Stocks hold up

The “stick” which the Coal Board will be using is the fact that with coal stocks holding up well and increased oil burning at power stations the board can hold out for another year or more, if necessary.

A strategically important target for the Coal Board is to get more than half the NUM membership back at work so that it could be claimed that the union had “voted” with its feet against the strike.

At the moment almost 70,000 of the 139,000 NUM members are defying the strike, so another 20,000 are needed to achieve a majority.

At the start of November's drive to get miners back to work more than 10,000 NUM members returned in a fortnight. But the rate slowed down in the weeks up to Christmas.

TOMATIN WHISKY PLANT TO SHUT

By Our Commercial Correspondent

Tomatin distillers yesterday announced it is to close after five years of losses. It has one of the biggest distilleries in the Highlands, able to produce over 12 million litres of alcohol a year, but most of its 60 employees are at its London headquarters.

Tomatin has been a supplier of whisky to other distillers, rather than one marketing sales have resulted in most firms making more use of their own malts, cutting down on buying from Tomatin.

City report—P17

Details—P25

MONTE CARLO RALLY BACK ON AGAIN

The Monte Carlo rally, cancelled on Thursday, was on again yesterday. The Automobile Club of Monaco said that the 56th rally would begin Jan. 26.

Just 24 hours earlier, the club had said it was cancelling the competition because of a dispute with the French motor sport federation about fees for running parts of the rally that take place in France. The two clubs met yesterday and agreed to run the rally on 1984 terms.

Details—P25

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BE READY FOR STRIKE, RAIL UNION TOLD

By OUR INDUSTRIAL STAFF

MEMBERS of the National Union of Railwaymen have been warned by their leaders that they may have to strike "to save their industry" in 1985. In his New Year message Mr Knapp, general secretary, says: "Conflict may prove unavoidable."

He says he fears Government policies to cut public spending will hit the railway network, and strikes and other disruptive action may be the only way to fight back.

POST OFFICE UNION SEEKS NEW NAME

By STEPHEN WARD

Industrial Staff

THE Post Office Engineering Union, which is looking for a new name because it has fewer than a twelfth of its members working for the Post Office, is deeply split over what to call itself.

Its search for a title has been on since 1980 when British Telecom was hived off from the Post Office.

To the annoyance of the Telecom engineers, the Postal Workers' Union set in first to rattle itself with the most obvious choice, the Union of Communication Workers.

A consultancy hired to think of a name came up with the Association of Communications Employees, but this has been objected to because it lacks the word "union".

A cumbersome alternative favoured by some union leaders is the Communications and Information Services Union.

Open choice

There will be no formal recommendation to a conference in February which has to decide on a new name, but branches have been asked to send in their suggestions.

One has already suggested Postal Labour and Engineers Brotherhood and Sisterhood (P.L.E.B.S.), which would be unlikely to help the union in its attempt to recruit more widely in the private telecommunications sector.

MANAGERS

'MUST LEAD FROM FRONT'

By Our Business Correspondent

Managers were told by Sir Peter Parker, chairman of the British Institute of Management, yesterday to lead from the front and step up efforts to improve competitiveness next year.

Mr Parker, in a New Year message to the Institute's 75,000 members, said that improved competitiveness must be the organisation's "justified obsession".

There were outstanding examples of success in management and services, but the performance of many others had to be raised.

Tory anxiety over bus services plans

By JOHN PETTY Transport Correspondent

THE risk of another humiliating defeat for the Government is forcing the four transport ministers to travel the country to rally support for plans to end controls over local bus services.

Mr Ridley, Transport Secretary, has already had to delay two other key measures and his department is under severe criticism in several other areas.

A legal dispute made him postpone denationalisation of British Airways, while opposition by Conservative MPs over Standed being developed as the third London airport has made him shelve the Aviation Bill.

There is mounting Conservative anxiety over "complacency" by his department over the rapid decline of the Merchant Navy, and much criticism of the weakness of the current "don't drink and drive" campaign.

There are also complaints about failure to have adequate warning signs, lighting and service stations on new motorways, and doubts over some aspects of the policy towards British Rail.

Now the proposed Bus Bill is arousing opposition among many Conservatives in both the shire counties and urban areas. It is also angering many owner-driver taximen, many of whom have been Conservative voters.

The Bill will allow almost unfettered competition on local bus routes outside London. At present, only long-distance coaches are permitted to operate in this way.

It means cut-price operators will move on to profitable town routes, compelling existing operators to reduce their fares. But that means it will no longer be possible to maintain loss-making country routes out of profits on town services.

Many rural services are likely to disappear. And many local Conservative politicians fear

"So, unless our alternative strategy swings the pendulum back towards sanity, we may well have to turn to our members to save the industry. The storm clouds are gathering, and we can't wish them away."

But rebel railwaymen who have tried to leave the NUR to form a breakaway moderate union claim they have been told they must belong to either the NUR or to the other recognised British Rail union, Aslef, and cannot leave.

Mr David Gladwin, a spokesman for the Federation of Professional Railway Staffs, which has about 1,500 members but is not recognised by BR, said a member of his federation in Derby had asked the management to stop deducting their union dues for the NUR from his pay packet.

'Condition of service' A British Rail official in Derby had written attention to the fact "that at the present time it is a condition of service that British Rail employees must be members of a trade union recognised by the Board." He was also asked in the letter which union he belonged to.

Under the 1982 Employment Act all closed shop agreements, lost their legal force unless confirmed by 80 per cent of employees affected, in a secret ballot. BR has held no such ballot.

A British Rail Board spokesman said: "We cannot insist on anyone remaining in a trade union. We are having talks with trade unions about the end of the closed shop, and it is not correct that an employee should be a union member."

Three railwaymen who were dismissed by British Rail in 1976 for refusing to join a closed shop appealed successfully to the European Court of Human Rights.

In 1981 the Court ordered the British Government to pay the three a total of £145,000 in compensation and costs.

GO-AHEAD OVER NEWSPAPERS

United Newspapers, the newspaper and publishing group, was yesterday given the go-ahead by the Trade and Industry Department to take over the "free sheet" newspaper owned by the Yellow Advertiser Group.

The move is part of United Newspapers' £82.3 million takeover of Link House Publications which owns a 31 per cent stake in the Essex-based Yellow Advertiser Group. Under the Fair Trading Act, certain transfers of newspaper ownership have to be referred to the Trade Secretary.

SEALINK UNION MEN ACCEPT DIEPPE DEAL

By Our Shipping Correspondent

Members of the National Union of Seamen have voted overwhelmingly at Newhaven to accept terms in which the British side of Sealink will pull off the route to Dieppe, leaving it entirely to the French.

The men involved will move to a route from Dover to Ostend. The deal includes relocation expenses in which married householders will get an allowance of £1,650 and others a payment of £1,000.

Legal and estate agent fees, including stamp duty, will be met up to a maximum of £3,500. Those who do not want to move home will get transport to work from Newhaven to Dover.

Those who decide to quit will get payment of £1,000 for each year served, plus £100 a month for part-years, up to a maximum tax-free £25,000.

PEKING'S PRAISE FOR THATCHER

By Our Financial Correspondent

China profusely thanked Mrs Thatcher yesterday for healing the "wound to the hearts of the people" allegedly caused by the 1842 Treaty of Nanjing ceding Hong Kong island to Britain in perpetuity.

Peking's most influential English-language publication, the *Renmin*, described Mrs Thatcher as "a stateswoman with realistic" with a stateswoman's foresight in judging the hour.

ITALIAN HOLIDAY By Our Rome Correspondent One hundred children of striking British miners arrived in Rome and Bologna yesterday in two charter flights to spend a fortnight in the houses of Italian trade unionists.



Bargain hunting American tourists inspecting sweaters in Selfridges yesterday when they enjoyed the double advantage of the January sales and the increasing strength of the dollar against the pound.

HOSPITAL BRANCH 'TO SHUT'

By DAVID FLETCHER

Health Services Correspondent

THE Royal National Throat, Nose and Ear Hospital is planning to close one of its two London branches as an economy measure, although this will mean that not all its patients can be treated, it was disclosed yesterday.

The hospital, based on two sites, has long been planning to spend £2 million expanding its Gray's Inn Road branch so that its branch in Golden Square, Soho, can be closed.

But Bloomsbury Health Authority which is responsible for the hospital is facing a deficit of £4 million in the next financial year and is planning to go ahead with the closure of the Golden Square hospital without expanding facilities at the Gray's Inn Road site.

A meeting of the health authority has been called early in the New Year to decide whether to proceed with the closure, planned for February, to save the £1,000,000 a year running costs of the Golden Square hospital.

Mr Tim Matthews, Bloomsbury district administrator, said that the 40-bed Golden Square hospital treated 3,500 in-patients a year plus a further 10,000 out-patients.

He said: "The out-patient work can be accommodated at the Gray's Inn Road hospital with a certain amount of squeezing and difficulty and some minor rebuilding work."

"But it will not be possible to accommodate all the in-patients and we estimate we shall only be able to transfer 11 of the 19 operating sessions at present carried out at Golden Square."

Waiting time Waiting time for appointments at Gray's Inn Road is already running at six months and this will inevitably increase if patients continue to be referred to the hospital.

Mr Matthews said: "It does not follow that the waiting list will increase pro-rata because GPs may refer patients elsewhere."

"We very much regret the proposed closure of Golden Square without first expanding facilities at Gray's Inn Road but other London health districts we are under tremendous financial pressure."

The Golden Square hospital occupies a prime site and its sale could raise several million pounds for the health authority if planning permission can be obtained for redevelopment.

NAT WEST RAISES INTEREST RATES

By Our Financial Correspondent

National Westminster bank yesterday announced increased interest rates on deposit and savings accounts to take effect from Tuesday. The bank will also start deducting tax at the new composite rate instead of paying interest gross.

The gross rate on three-month term deposits goes up from 9 1/2 to 9 3/4 per cent, and on six-month deposits from 9 1/4 to 9 1/2 per cent. Bonus saver and mortgage saver rates are unchanged.

PEKING'S PRAISE FOR THATCHER

By HUGH DAVIES in Peking

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ITALIAN HOLIDAY

By Our Rome Correspondent

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Britain needs peaceful revolution, says Benn

By OUR POLITICAL STAFF

THE Labour movement has failed to change the power structure of Britain even when in office, and now faces a more formidable and deep-seated crisis than is generally realised, Mr Wedgwood Benn said yesterday.

Writing in *Marxism Today*, the theoretical journal of the Communist party, Mr Benn argued that Britain needed a "comprehensive, peaceful and democratic revolution... and that it must include equal changes within the Labour and trade union movement."

There was a need for Labour to recover its morale and self-confidence, with the lesson of 1984 being that "if you fight, you win, and if you fudge, you fail."

While this message was put in the abstract, it will be widely seen as criticism of Mr Kinnoch whose failure to support the miners' strike outright has infuriated the "hard Left."

A rash of speculation that the Labour leader might face a Left-wing challenge for his job at the party's Bournemouth conference in September was ridiculed yesterday by Mr Martin Flannery, MP for Sheffield Hillsborough.

But Mr Flannery did state that there was a deep anger throughout the Labour movement at Mr Kinnoch's distancing himself from the miners and the insulting remarks he has made at times about Mr Scargill.

Striking the same chord as Mr Benn, he said that the strikers needed Labour support to win their dispute, and that if they failed, "our chances of winning the next election are more remote than Mr Kinnoch thinks."

Labour to start 'back to work' campaign

By NICHOLAS COMFORT Political Staff

THE Labour party is waiting for the end of the miners' strike to launch a major "jobs and industry" campaign depicting it as the only political force able to tackle unemployment.

The campaign is designed not only to revive Labour's electoral fortunes, but also to persuade trade unionists to vote for the continuance of union funding for the party in the impending round of ballots.

For this latter reason the campaign has been planned to start in March. But the party leadership accepts that as long as the pit strike is in progress, it would be near-pointless to launch it in its full form.

Labour's ultimate nightmare is that the miners' strike would collapse amid recriminations in late July or in August, setting the stage for virulent exchanges at both the TUC and Labour party conferences.

The strategy for electoral recovery through exploitation of the unemployment issue relies considerably on a peaceful party conference at which the message can be driven home as well as on the activity before then of the Labour supporters in the unions.

No hostility

In planning the campaign, a committee under Mr John Smith, Shadow Trade and Industry Secretary, has drawn some highly critical lessons from the experience of the General Election, when what had seemed a certain vote-winner turned out not to be.

A severely worded memorandum from Mr Smith on Labour's shortcomings in the election was "leaked" to the *New Statesman*, and to the amazement of the party leadership sparked no hostility or criticism from the Left of the kind they had been braced to expect.

A briefing on the campaign officially distributed within the party sets as its main task "to present the public with a credible economic and employment strategy that people will

BA MOVE MADRID FLIGHTS

By Air Cdre G. S. COOPER

Air Correspondent

BRITISH Airways is to resume flights from Heathrow to Madrid and Lisbon in the Spring to get back on an equal footing with the Spanish and Portuguese flag carriers.

Iberia and Air Portugal refused to obey the Government's directions in 1978 to move all Iberian services to Gatwick to relieve congestion at London's main airport. By 1980, BA had moved all its Iberian services to Gatwick.

The government White Paper on airline competition policy published in October recognised that the transfer had caused a considerable loss of profit for the State airline and gave BA permission to move its services to Madrid, Barcelona and Lisbon back to Heathrow on conditions that an equal number of flights was transferred to Gatwick.

Business travellers

BA has now decided to move to Heathrow the daily Lisbon service and 14 of the 20 flights a week between London and Madrid.

The flights carry a high proportion of business travellers, who prefer to use Heathrow because of its wider choice of connecting flights, said a BA spokesman.

Services to Malta and Venice will be transferred to Gatwick to balance the change. BA's daily flights to Barcelona, Bilbao and Malaga, and two flights a week each to Faro, Oporto and Valencia will continue to be flown from Gatwick.

AIRLINE STATES CASE Air policy 'inconsistent'

By JOHN GRIGSBY

Local Government Correspondent

THE Court of Common Council, the governing body of the City of London, is recommending a radical reorganisation of the traffic system round Liverpool Street.

It will affect the journeys of the thousands of people who arrive at the station every day.

The aim of the new system is "to improve the environment and road traffic safety," said the City Corporation, in essence the Corporation is recommending that the present one-way system should be reversed.

The move would be undertaken in conjunction with the redevelopment of Liverpool Street Station. The Corporation argues that the present system causes congestion and is unsafe for pedestrians.

Bus station Under the new arrangements, the route between London Wall and Liverpool Street would be one way, south to north. The route between Old Broad Street and Liverpool Street would be one way east to west.

The proposed scheme has to be approved by the Greater London Council. The scheme is not expected to come into effect before 1986.

The new Liverpool Street development is expected to provide an extra 1.1 million square feet of offices, 29,000 sq ft of shops and 75,000 sq ft of community facilities and room for buses. A new bus station will be placed west of the Great Eastern Hotel, which is to be retained.

EXPORTS RECORD Exports in the Irish Republic have risen by more than a quarter this year to a record level, according to figures issued in Dublin yesterday. The rise of 27 per cent, exceeded the performance of all other EEC states.

Norwegian tankers 'defying S. Africa oil embargo'

By JOHN PETTY Shipping Correspondent

THREE Norwegian tankers have illicitly delivered oil worth more than £500 million to South Africa in defiance of an international embargo, it is alleged by the Amsterdam-based Shipping Research Bureau.

One of them was the Thorshaven, under repair in Dubai after being set on fire by Iraqi warplanes last week after loading 230,000 tons of crude at the Kharg Island terminal in Iran.

Between November, 1981, and the end of September, 1984, the Norwegian tanker owner Thor Dahl transported at least 13 cargoes of crude oil to South Africa," says the Bureau in a report to the Norwegian Government.

All crude oil cargoes were loaded in the Arabian Gulf area. Each oil-exporting country in that area has a policy that its oil should not be supplied to South Africa.

It involved 3,500,000 tons, but this is only a fraction of the 15 million tons a year South Africa is obtaining by secret deals with oil dealers and shipowners.

Shuttle service The bureau gives a log showing that from the middle of 1983 the Thor Dahl tankers Thorsaga, Thorsval, and Thorsholm appeared to run a shuttle service to South Africa from the Arabian Gulf.

Most runs were by the 27,000-tonners Thorsaga and Thorsholm. The Thorsval is 251,300 tons.

The deals were "surrounded by secrecy, with the identity of the oil traders not revealed, false destinations of cargo and tanker reported and calls at South African ports kept strictly secret."

The bureau was set up as an independent Dutch organisation in 1980 specifically to investigate ways in which South Africa gets supplies despite a widely-approved ban on deliveries of crude oil in protest at apartheid.

Burning supervised The escorting officers supervising the burning ensure there is no residue.

Courts have powers under the Misuse of Drugs Act to decide what is to be done with drugs used as exhibits. This is, nowadays, an order for their destruction.

Small samples of drugs are kept by Customs and police for training Customs investigators and drug squad detectives and also for training dogs to search for hidden supplies.

Jobs plea by port chief recruiting another 90 dockers as the Dooley container terminal switches to three-shift working and the Landguard container terminal gets an extra crane.

It has just begun to turn its last available space into the new Trinity container terminal, which will open in 1986 at a cost of £40 million and employ another 320 people.

The new Bill is for still further expansion which could cost up to £100 million and create another 1,100 permanent jobs.

"Critics of the Bill say jobs created in the port do not go to local people," says European Ferries. It has produced figures to disprove this.

Between 1979 and 1984, 49 per cent of new jobs went to people in Felixstowe, Trimley and Kirton, 40 per cent to people from nearby Ipswich and five per cent to people from Woodbridge.

"Nearly 20 per cent of new recruits were previously unemployed," said Mr Derek Kingston, head of personnel at the port.

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CIVILIAN TRIAL FOR ARGENTINA JUNTA CHIEFS

By CRISTINA BONASEGNA in Buenos Aires

MEMBERS of Argentina's former military juntas will be tried by a civilian court for their responsibility for widespread human rights violations.

This development follows a Supreme Court ruling on Thursday night which put an end to a jurisdiction struggle between military and civilian courts over the issue.

President Raul Alfonsín brought the charges against members of three of the juntas that ruled Argentina between 1976 and 1983 shortly after he took office a year ago.

Two former military presidents and three other junta members are being held under preventive arrest in the investigation into the 10,000 people who have disappeared.

"The trial of the juntas will be fast and spectacular," said Emilio Mignone, a human rights campaigner yesterday. "It will be open to the public and sentences could be passed as early as March."

Justice reform

Under a reform of the military Code of Justice introduced by Alfonsín, the charges against nine former junta members were transferred to the Federal Chamber of Appeal on Oct. 2, after the highest military tribunal in the country apparently refused to pass sentence.

However, the Supreme Court ruling, which backs up the Military Code reform, is not expected to set a precedent in investigations into human rights abuses against other

officers, including Navy Lt-Cdre Alfredo Astiz, who is being tried by a civilian court on charges of kidnapping and abducting a Swedish-Australian girl, Damar Hagelin, in 1977 and of taking her to an illegal detention centre at the Navy Mechanics School in Buenos Aires where she was last seen alive some days afterwards.

Law chief's view

But the federal solicitor general said that he felt Astiz's case should be transferred to a military court.

Under the reformed military Code of Justice, the Armed Forces' Supreme Council is the proper court for crimes committed by military personnel on duty.

Although the judge handing the Astiz case is expected to express his intention to continue the investigations next week, the Federal Chamber of Appeal and the Supreme Court are likely to order the case to be transferred to the military court, human rights campaigners said.

"If this happens the Astiz case won't return to the civilian court until 1986 and a definite sentence will have to wait until then," one campaigner added.

Falklands separation plan 'only an idea'

By DAVID ADAMSON Diplomatic Correspondent

A CONSTITUTIONAL proposal for the separation of South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands from the Falklands was still only an "idea" which had yet to be decided on, a Foreign Office spokesman said yesterday.

THATCHER 'ARROGANT' ON ISLANDS

By Our Buenos Aires Correspondent

ARGENTINA'S Foreign Minister, Señor Dante Caputo, described as "arrogant" Mrs Thatcher's assurance that the Falkland Islanders wish to remain British would always come before Argentine claims over the South Atlantic archipelago.

Señor Caputo reacted angrily to Mrs Thatcher's Christmas broadcast to the islands, saying that her statements "are almost typical of an ever-shrinking empire that never ceases decaying."

Speaking on Thursday night the Foreign Minister said he was confident that "sooner or later" Argentina would recover the islands over which both countries battled for seven weeks in 1982.

"I believe that Mrs Thatcher can talk about what she will do during her government, but to intend to set the course of history by saying 'always,' seems to me an act of arrogance," he declared.

Hard task

Señor Caputo re-affirmed that his country would continue waging a diplomatic battle to have its claim over the Falklands recognised. This he described as a "difficult and hard" task.

Negotiations between Argentina and Britain over the future of the islands are deadlocked over the issue of sovereignty.

"Argentina had a just title (to the islands), a legitimate government pressing for this title, and history itself backing it up," the Foreign Minister added.

RUSSIA TESTS MODEL SPACE SHUTTLE

By NIGEL WADE in Moscow

Russia is testing a model space shuttle but is unsure whether it could be economical, Academician Roald Sagdeev, head of the Soviet Space Research Institute, told a Moscow news conference yesterday.

He confirmed that a test on Dec. 19, in which "artificial earth satellite Cosmos-1614" orbited the Earth and splashed down in the Black Sea was a shuttle test.

The Australian Navy has twice photographed a Soviet mini-shuttle test craft, wedge-shaped like the American shuttle but only about 10ft long, being retrieved from the Indian Ocean.

KING FREES 195

By Our Kathmandu Correspondent

King Birendra of Nepal yesterday granted amnesty to 195 prisoners to mark his 40th birthday. A two-mile procession went to the palace to offer greetings to the King.



POLAND'S 'UNIQUE' TRIAL

By Our Diplomatic Staff

THE open trial of undercover policemen accused of murdering Father Popieluszko is unique in post-war Soviet-bloc history and a measure of the degree to which the Polish State has become accountable to the nation.

It would be unthinkable for a similar trial to take place anywhere else in the East bloc, except as a showpiece for propaganda reasons.

Poland has emerged from more than a year of military rule and the often violent suppression of political opposition during which most forms of civil liberty were suspended, as a Communist country still out of step with its allies.

The 18-month Solidarity era has left behind a climate in which the State is obliged to acknowledge the necessity of bringing its most trusted servants to account for a crime which in Moscow, Sofia or Bucharest would never even have been publicly announced, let alone publicly punished.

It is the very nature of General Jaruzelski's relatively "liberal" dictatorship that moved the hardline Marxist policemen to instigate their crime and led to their being tried in public.

Moscow baffled

Behind the crime lie suggestions of Stalinist-inspired political schemes to destabilise the country enough for Moscow to step in and replace Gen. Jaruzelski with a firmer hand.

The extraordinary complexity of the trial occasionally places Solidarity activists and the Government on the same side in calling for calm after Father Popieluszko's murder and in demanding strict justice for the killers.

The Kremlin cannot quite understand what is going on in Poland but, so long as the general appears to run the country, it is not the only person able to run the nation, is willing to put up with almost anything except open public opposition.

Poland has never been—and probably never will be—a nation capable of being a party to the same terms as its Communist neighbours.

As Mr Rifkind, Foreign Office Secretary of State, said during his visit to Poland last month, even under martial law it has one of the better human rights records in Eastern Europe.

TURKEY AND RUSSIA FAIL TO AGREE

By Our Ankara Correspondent

Because of political disagreements Turkey and Russia did not issue a joint communiqué at the end of two-day official visits by Mr Tikhonov, the Soviet Prime Minister to Ankara. This was announced by most Turkish papers yesterday, following Mr Tikhonov's departure.

The Istanbul daily Hürriyet said Cyprus, international terrorism and Turkish-Greek problems were the main issues that Turkey failed to find "acceptable terms" with the Soviet Union. Russia wanted to emphasise nuclear weapons and "crisis in the world."

According to Foreign Ministry sources the main source of disagreement was their understanding of terrorism. Turkey's refusal to support Soviet-sponsored condemnation of state terrorism in the United Nations prevented Mr Tikhonov from making any public statement, said an Ankara diplomat.

FEARS FOR LIFE OF SCHARANSKY

By Our Jerusalem Correspondent

Concern that the health of Anatoly Scharansky, the Jewish Soviet activist, may have seriously deteriorated was expressed yesterday by his wife, Avital, who said he had been transferred to hospital from a labour camp in the Urals.

Mrs Scharansky, who is in Israel, said she had learned of her husband's illness from her mother-in-law who had telephoned from Moscow. She feared for her husband's life because of reports that Jewish activists were molested because of their political convictions.

Year of EEC progress after Budget deal

By ALAN OSBORN Common Market Correspondent

A MOOD of striking optimism enfolds the Common Market as it enters 1985, not least because it will be the first year since 1978 not dominated by the British EEC budget problem.

Britain has promised a new tough, but constructive, approach to Community problems.

This was signalled by the appointment of Lord Cockfield, and Mr Stanley Clinton Davis, as the two new British Commissioners in Brussels, which has raised hopes that the New Year will mark the start of a fresh period of realism and progress for the EEC.

By most measures, the outgoing EEC Commission, under the presidency of M. Gaston Thorn of Luxembourg, has been a disappointment. Its four-year term of office witnessed a gradual slide in the political authority bequeathed to it by the Row Jenkins's Commission in 1981.

Although several individual commissioners distinguished themselves, the impression remains that it was the EEC member governments themselves who produced and acted on the initiative that finally yielded a reasonable balance sheet for the past four years.

In particular, the French and Irish governments, who held the EEC presidency in 1984, might justifiably claim a major credit for these results, break-throughs, particularly on the budget but also in respect of enlargement negotiations with Spain and Portugal, relations with the developing countries and the new drive to open up internal markets between member countries.

In no way can the Italian Government, which takes over the presidency for the first half of 1985, be said to inherit a clean sheet.

Imaginative leadership

But there is a strong feeling that the problems still hanging over the budget and the enlargement negotiations are largely technical and could swiftly yield to an application of imaginative leadership from the new Commission in Brussels under M. Jacques Delors, the former French finance minister.

The outstanding achievement of 1984—as, indeed, of the past four years, was the three-part agreement reached at Fontainebleau in June on the EEC's finances.

Under the new regime, Britain will no longer have to beg or threaten, year after year, for a budget rebate. It will be automatically provided, if not quite on the scale the Government would have liked.

Fontainebleau also gave the go-ahead for an increase in the EEC's annual revenues from member governments thus averting the possibility that Community policies might be paralysed by lack of money from next year.

Finally, and possibly most important of all, the agreement introduces a measure of discipline.

The Association of German Industry, the equivalent of Britain's CBI, sees increasing investment and exports resulting in strong impulses extending well into 1985.

But for all the cheer on the economic front, unemployment is still proving problematic and is likely to remain well above the two million mark in 1985.

Latest forecasts predict average unemployment of around 2.27 million next year, little changed on 1984, with redundancies expected in the building sector and in the steel industry.

Bonn confidence high

By MICHAEL FARR in Bonn

THE West German economy, Europe's strongest, is set for steady growth in the New Year, bolstered by booming exports and mounting business confidence.

After more than two years in office and more than his share of political banana skins, Chancellor Kohl is determined to make capital of the successes on the economic front and has repeatedly referred to them in recent interviews.

The chancellor notes that West Germans are entering the New Year with more confidence than for years. This is borne out by the latest opinion poll by the respected Allenbach Institute which shows that 85 per cent are "hopeful," a jump from 45 per cent a year ago.

Record trade surplus

Dr Kohl bases the optimism on the fact that the economy is growing again, that prices have returned to the stability of the

CAMBODIA REBELS POUNDED

By HUGH DAVIES in Peking

IN a stiffly worded communiqué last night, China denounced Vietnam for "acting like criminals" in assault on the stronghold of a main guerrilla force at Ampil, Cambodia.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman in Peking called on Hanoi to "stop slaughtering innocent people" in Cambodia.

Reports from the battle-zone indicated that the Vietnamese were preparing a major ground attack on the command headquarters of a Peking ally, the Khmer Peoples' National Liberation Force.

Artillery pounded the area with shells and mortars yesterday as an estimated 23,000 civilians huddled at the rear of the camp ready for a swift escape across an anti-tank ditch forming the frontier with Thailand.

More than 100,000 refugees have sought haven in Thailand since the latest offensive against border camps began. Western diplomats said that the fall of Ampil would deal a great psychological blow to the guerrilla forces who have fought the Vietnamese for six years.

Last camp

Ampil is the last major frontier resistance camp to stay intact since the dry season offensive began last month. Three days ago, Soviet T-54 tanks were used to crush rebels at Song Samet, 16 miles away.

The Vietnamese military operation, which began on Nov. 18, appears to be the most

ferocious yet to be directed against the guerrillas since Hanoi ousted the infamous Pol Pot regime in December 1978, replacing it with the Heng Samrin government.

Since then, Hanoi has maintained an estimated 150,000 to 170,000 troops in the former Cambodian homeland of Peking's great ally, Prince Norodom Sihanouk, who now heads one of the main resistance groups.

The latest attacks are being portrayed by Hanoi as "a punishment," which was vital to assure the "security" of the Cambodians.

SINGAPORE IS LATEST TO QUIT UNESCO

By Our Diplomatic Correspondent

Singapore has unexpectedly become the first Third World country to announce its withdrawal from UNESCO, the Paris-based U.N. educational, scientific and cultural organisation which has been accused by Western nations of inefficiency and pro-Soviet bias.

A spokesman for Singapore's foreign ministry said the decision, which will take effect in a year's time, was based on financial considerations. The country's contribution to U.N. ESCO had increased by 400 per cent since 1976 while contributions from Communist states had either remained static or been reduced.

The United States withdrew on Monday, taking with it its 25 per cent contribution to the organisation's annual budget. Britain and West Germany recently gave a year's notice of their withdrawals.

15 DEATH SENTENCES

The Jordanian Government has approved death sentences on 15 people convicted of selling their property on the Israeli-occupied West Bank to Israelis, the official Jordanian news agency Petra reported yesterday.

REUTERS

Gandhi's landslide victory precedes formidable task

By DAVID GRAVES in New Delhi

AS Rajiv Gandhi stood poised to win a landslide Indian election victory last night, the next major test facing him is seen as the most formidable crisis confronting the country since independence in 1947.

Increasing domestic and international problems provided an unsettled backdrop to the election.

The 40-year-old Prime Minister undoubtedly benefited from an overwhelming sympathy factor after the assassination of his mother but his Congress (I) party also gained from the lack of a credible alternative posed by a bitterly divided opposition.

Now he will be expected to be far tougher with future separatist demands and unrest in the Punjab and Assam, where no polling took place, and also in the north-eastern border regions where armed insurgents are active.

Dangerous course

The growing feeling in many states that they should have a bigger share of power, a legacy of Nehru's inflexible centralisation and an excessively centralised administration, would seem to have diminished since her death and her son's emergence.

He will now lead India along a testing, if not dangerous, course over the next five years.

Behind him will be the so-called "computer boys," a team of former school friends, associates and confidantes—many of whom have left top executive roles in private industry to advise the young Prime Minister on political and economic trends.

An improving balance of payments, a manageable foreign debt and 70 per cent self-sufficiency in all produced foodstuffs are all electoral weapons in his favour.

BORDER TENSIONS

Despite the technological "new world" Mr Gandhi has promised he will still have the most serious domestic and international issues to tackle.

There are still glaring contradictions between the secular ideals which Mahatma Gandhi had enshrined in the constitution and the realities of communal, caste and regional divisions. Nearly half of the 750 million population are living under the poverty line and 60 per cent are still illiterate.

In international affairs there are many who regard as an enormous contradiction India's role as chairman of the non-aligned movement and the continuing border tensions

than when he was last in the country. Before his departure after an eight-day stay, he had a final round of talks in Peking with Chinese officials, including Peng Zhen, head of the standing committee of the National People's Congress.

One topic thought to have been discussed was the visit next month of Gen. John Vessey, head of the American joint chiefs of staff, who is to discuss arrangements for American warships to make ceremonial calls to Chinese ports for the first time since the Communists took power in 1949.

According to the New China news agency, Peng said the "abnormal state" of Sino-Soviet relations "should not continue" and the Chinese side "sincerely hoped" ties would be normalised.

Nothing progress was being made in the areas of the economy, trade, science and technology, he added that the visit should be "a starting point to do as many things as possible."

Mr Arkhipov said Moscow hoped to build friendly relations with China. He noted that "positive factors" had been found in relations in recent years.

Mr Arkhipov, 77, helped formulate and implement China's first five-year plan while he was based in Peking.

His hosts yesterday showed him a steel plant at Wuban in central China, stressing that output was now ten times higher

Talks on U.S. visit

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DAVID HOLLOWAY

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pective to have been more

Historically speaking, we might have expected now to enjoy a period of consolidating the gains made during the years of expansion and establishing the language forged during the revolution. Musical evolution, however, recognises no historical precedents, and it may be well into the next century before the full effect of computer systems upon music has been realised and assimilated.

Society consists of a small group of enthusiasts which publishes a journal, edited by Mark Jones of the British Museum, which has proved an addition to that handful of periodicals, such as *THE BURLINGTON MAGAZINE*, which makes life more civilised. By commissioning Lynn Chadwick to produce his first medal, the society has stimulated British art.

In a year when we have been celebrating the 50th anniversary of the British Council it is right that the Visiting Arts Unit should also remember. It is a wonderful British organisation. With a tiny staff and funds which are minuscule compared with what other countries like France spend on similar ventures, it has helped to bring to this country exhibitions which are good both for art and for international relations.

Just how expensive the arts can be is shown by some of the high spots of 1984. Events such as "Civiltà del Seicento a Napoli" - on in Naples until April 14 and arguably the year's greatest exhibition; two

CHESS

Since Kasparov threw away four games out of the first nine through youthful inexperience, he has held his own in a desperate rearguard action, scoring 1-1 with 24 draws. Karpov, fearful of Kasparov's combinational skill, has not dared allow the ghost of an opening but lacks the power, it seems, to

B. H. WOOD

Come to think of it, governmental interference in this sport seems to have become quite common since then.

THE ARTS

What on earth is he supposed to make of such material? We know that pantomimes traditionally disdain authors, we know that stars just come back to the theatre for Christmas to do their own familiar thing. We know the kids will co-operate and pretend to be critical before cheering their little heads off. But how can such tawdriness be made to seem, even for odd moments, coherent?

As the Dame, Kenneth Connor has the right personality but where are the gags? Lucky are the symbols of good and evil — Joan Sims with her wand and her smile, and Keith Barron with his cloak and glare and imitations of Olivier's Richard. Mr Barron begs us to

It may well be that La Serenissima exudes the odd whiff, especially at canal-cleaning time. If so, it is a pong to be prized, here is no city on earth that has so well earned the grandeur of its slow decay. You would not recoil from the gentle musty odour of a Norfolk church: no civilised person could possibly object to a city nearly as old as the Roman empire.

as surely as it invited the brush in the 18th, and some of Vidal's *bons mots* began to verge on the platitudinous. But let's not be ungrateful, it was a splendid tour, one that will surely have sent first-timers out to the travel agents and us old-stagers wistfully to contemplate our bank balances and wonder if it's not time for another intake.

BRIDGE

In the open room with Woolsey and Mansfield North-South against Soulet and Lebel the bidding was

S.	W.	N.	E.
----	----	----	----

P.J. But declarer has an alternative play. He can cash $\spadesuit A$, cross to $\heartsuit K$, cash $\spadesuit K$ and lead $\spadesuit J$. If North holds $\spadesuit Q9xx$ there is the chance to lead towards $\heartsuit K$. This succeeds as the cards lie because South with $\heartsuit A$ has not the winning diamond. Soulet cashed the $\spadesuit A$ $\spadesuit Q$ crossed to the table with $\spadesuit K$, cashed $\spadesuit K$ and led $\spadesuit J$ to make nine tricks.

In the closed room with Mar-

But only the director can orchestrate the nonsense so cunningly that we feel truly on his side throughout—even though he lets the Giant be stabbed conspicuously in the back—the sort of thing this show is doing to pantomime.

and the awful schoolboy were beautifully turned out; Valentine Dyall, no less, played the butler. I can't imagine an Eastbourne-type Palm Court being better done, or a more convincing lady-like spinster than Joan Hickson's deceptive Miss Marple.

Not having read a Christie "whodunnit" for a year or two, I couldn't help suspecting that the dialogue might have been helped along a bit in T. R.

G. C. H. FOX

S. W. N. E.
 — 1♥ — 1♠
 — 3NT — —

The opening lead was a spade. Martel thought it probable that Soulet would adopt the line he took. Feeling that

mother, a light-giver and an original, with her outbursts of extravagance and her passionate love of flowers and old things. Spade is a bold, wood-

Bowen's dramatisation. Perhaps I am doing Agatha an injustice. It was all so much better than London Weekend's long, lush, soporific films along the same lines, and almost up to the standard of Agatha's P. D. James with authentic police inquiry atmosphere and a splendidly disillusioned copper from David Horovitch. *Cyril Flint*

BRAIN TWISTER

Each move must consist of two adjacent cards. Moreover, the order in which the pair is moved must not be changed dur-

★

SOLUTION to BT355: There were eight in the party and there were two helpings of red herring: the first was the bit about Tommy, and the second was the slur on Marmaduke. Neither datum is needed to answer the original question, but these facts do enable us to say that one (father) doubled up on P and C, two (the girls) on T and C, and one (Tommy) on T and P. Not just the much maligned Marmaduke but all the remaining four had second helpings.

NATURE · MAURICE BURTON

subject, following my note on the subject, of someone who recalled seeing shooting stars apparently falling into a large field. She would search the field the next day and often found masses of jelly where the meteorites seemed to have fallen.

Another source of gelatinous material, this time seen only in spring, can be identified as unfertilized frog spawn. An unfertilized female may shed her spawn for the simple reason that she cannot contain it any

CONFIDENTIAL

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ART GALLERIES

[illegible]

A WINE-LOVER'S favourite dream must be to sip the best claret in the gracious setting of a French chateau. Not only can anyone do just this — at a price — they can also learn a great deal about the wines of Bordeaux in the process. To set the wheels in motion, all they have to do is ask at their local branch of Peter Dominic.

The high-flown realms of the Bordeaux premiers crus may appear to have little link with a High Street chainstore, but Dominic's is part of the IDV group, which also owns Gibbey's, and at the old Gibbey family property of Chateau Loudenne, the prestigious Ecole du Vin course is held five times a year.

This six-day course has a delightful charm all its own — the small numbers make it intimate and our group of 11 quickly developed a camaraderie, founded on a genuine love of wine, which went on into meetings and letters after the course.

We were also able to meet the chateau owners and cellar masters, brought forward to tell us their wonderful secrets on a truly personal basis, often at delicious but always informal meals, where wine rarely and expensively seen here flowed like the proverbial water.

And then there was the lovely, tranquil atmosphere of Chateau Loudenne itself which, as well as being a noted producer of a good cru bourgeois claret and a white wine, is also Gibbey's Bordeaux conference centre.

That bald term hardly does it justice, for staying there is like participating



LEFT: Course students looking at vineyard work in front of Chateau Loudenne.

RIGHT: A serious session in the tasting room of the chateau's cell.



Pictures by AVRIL GROOM

Taking a tasteful journey around the chateaux

BY AVRIL GROOM

in a country house party which is at once both grand and homely. The low, pink-washed chateau with its square towers and twin turrets is one of the most northerly of the great Medoc houses and lies on one of the famous gravelly hillocks that give the best wine, with a sweep of terrace, lawn, flowerbeds and vineyard leading down to the wide estuary of the Gironde, from which the wine used to be exported direct.

Initially rather run down, the house was exquisitely restored in period style but with all modern amenities by Gibbey's director, Martin Bamford, who sadly died just after the Ecole du Vin courses were launched two years ago.

The chateau is now run by a French couple, who prepare and serve the sumptuous meals, and the very efficient English chateau, who acts as hostess and is cheerfully tolerant towards her guests' foibles — in our group's case, a passion for late-night croquet, played by moonlight.

The course itself is five hard but very enjoyable days' work, plus the first afternoon, when the leisurely drive from the airport via all the famous wine communes and with stops to view some of the grander chateaux, became like reading a guided, animated wine list. The

course is run by Peter Dominic's very friendly and quite unimposing Master of Wine, Charles Eve, who rounded up an impressive bunch of lecturers.

Some talks were given in the chateau's own lecture-room, with tastings in the special room attached to Loudenne's cellar (winery) and chai (cellar) that provided our first model of a working Bordeaux chateau. Here we learnt the process of wine-making, including aspects of the technical side, the elements to look for in tasting a wine, care of the vines in the vineyard and the fascinating

history of the Bordeaux wine trade, founded mainly by English and Irishmen.

We also visited other chateaux, making the dry text-book descriptions of the region's differing wines come alive — the austere, long-lived St Estephe wine of comfortable Chateau de Pez, the aristocratic aloofness of premier cru Chateau Lafite, the softer glories of grand Chateau Giscours in Margaux and a whole day among the little hills and plateaux, generous wines and small chateaux of Pomerol and St Emilion.

What you do not do on

an Ecole du Vin course is spend the time tasting just wines from great chateaux and great years — but that hardly relates to real life anyway. What you do, far more usefully, is make comparisons — one area of Bordeaux against another (all are included during the week), one chateau through ten or more years. Medoc wines from the classed lists of one year against another.

And, in the evenings, as a climax to the day, came the rare and the great with dinner. Even the final-day demonstration of local cooking, given by a young Bordeaux chef who

is a rising star in French cuisine, was carefully matched to the chosen wines.

By the end of the week, anyone hearing chance remarks at a tasting would have thought us the most pretentious crowd imaginable — "Does this have a red berries nose or is it more farmyardy?" "Does the proportion of new-wood used each year really show?" — but the terminology of wine becomes not just plausible but commonplace when used intensively each day and we were all anxious to try in practice the theory we had acquired.

At the final, black-tie dinner, the guessing games were played with gems like Latour '64.

One or two stars got it exactly right: the rest of us felt just guessing the commune or the year correctly showed it had been a week well spent. Leaving next day was coming down to earth with a bump. We would all have liked to linger: some would have been more than happy to start all over again.

The Ecole du Vin course will cost £650 in 1985, not including travel to Bordeaux, but including all meals and transport once there. The first will be in April, the last in November and early booking is advisable as there are only 60 places per year.

The prospectus is available from Philip Parker, Ecole du Vin, Gibbey House, Harlow, Essex.

THE CREAM OF JERSEY'S TOP TABLES

THE winter weather in Jersey was sunny and mild when weary of set hotel menus, we cast about for some bright, quality, V.A.T-free restaurants.

Apple Cottage Restaurant, tucked into Rozel Bay's steep little valley, lies behind a low, flower-draped wall, down a flagged path to a shining door which is rose-festooned in summer. Step through into the roomy chintz and old oak restaurant, which Pat and Setti Pozzi took over three years ago.

The couple are famed for their super cream teas in summer and for their superb seafoods, whether the piled-high, pedastalled Sea Food Platter, with everything from oysters to giant prawns (£9.50) or their fresh-from-the-bay lobsters served cold, hot, or garlicky, as you choose, £9 to £9.50.

Having polished off large bowls of home-made vegetable and lobster soups, well laced with Jersey cream, we were tied into bibe for our lobster and jumbo prawns dishes. Then came melting, home-made apple pie with lashings more cream and excellent coffee. We ordered two long drinks too, and

yet had 10p change returned to us from a £20 note together with the slip stating "no tips required."

If fish is not your "thing," you can revel in tender veal poached in cream or fillet steaks cost-

rolls back, disclosing pork, lamb, beef and a crowded corner of hugely-puffed Yorkshire puddings.

It is wise to book, whether for Sunday lunch or for the Parisian Nights, when the price rises to

for two) and the Carré d'Agneau au Pistou (£10-60, also for two), all very generous portions.

Your wine selection at the Shakespeare restaurant runs from a French-bottled range of red, white and rosé Selection

ming bowls of the best Moules Marinières on the island, the tenderest Veal au Citron or à la crème, and a luscious selection of puddings.

The atmosphere is very family-friendly; nothing is too much trouble, you can leave messages or even parcels and the average cost of a three-course meal is £10 to £12 per head.

Last, but certainly far from least, is the smoothly admirable Ristorante Il Capriccio on two levels with, on the upper level, a full view of kitchen activities: always a hall mark of confidence. Signor Piero and his Signora are wildly enthusiastic, and their Italianate fare is excellent.

We chose Tagliatelli Il Capriccio, sauced with prawns, mussels and squid. This is definitely outstanding. We followed it with one enormous pair of veal escalopes with lemon and another pair poached in cream. Both were teamed with an assortment of freshly and properly cooked vegetables. Finally we indulged in a luscious chocolate gâteau drenched in Jersey cream. With proper filter coffee and including a 10 per cent. service charge, our bill was just over £20 for two.

EATING OUT BY BON VIVEUR

ing £4-25. A carafe of red white or rosé wine costs from £2-40.

Another "must" is The Shakespeare Old English Restaurant where the new bar is thronged on Sunday mornings prior to the best value and freshest Sunday lunches on the island for £5-50, at which Jack Stevens carves at each table from a great domed trolley which is wheeled about for him. The top

£8-75. This buys first-rate accordion music, a six-course dinner menu plus coffee and an evening's dancing. On all occasions there is also the à la carte, featuring such notable successes as Crêpes Suzette (for two at £3-90), Crevettes St Pierre, a delectable dish of jumbo prawns wrapped in quality bacon and turned in a cream and light curry sauce (£6-60

du Patron at £3-05 per bottle to a ceiling £18-90 for a Gevrey Chambertin Louis Latour '79.

The Restaurant de la Poste, bang in the centre of the shopping precinct of St Helier, is a luncheon meeting place with partner Franco in charge, or a dinner celebration when Renato takes over.

Upstairs, this Italian trattoria serves a super Osso Bucco, great brim-

THE RESTAURANTS

APPLE COTTAGE RESTAURANT, Rozel Bay. Tel: 0534 61002. Hours of opening: Winter: lunch, 12 noon to 2.15, last orders: 7 pm to 9.30, last orders. In summer, teas from 12 noon to 5.30 pm. Morning coffee from 10.30. Closed Sunday evening and all day Monday.

RESTAURANT DE LA POSTE, 59 King Street, St Helier. Tel: 0534 71071. Hours of opening: lunch, 11 am to 2.30 pm, last orders: dinner, 7 pm to 10 pm, last orders.

THE SHAKESPEARE OLD ENGLISH RESTAURANT, Saumarez, St Clements. Tel: 0534 51537. Hours of opening: seven days a week, lunch 12 noon to 3 pm, last orders: bar 12 noon to 2 pm, last orders; dinners, 7 pm to 10.30, last orders.

RISTORANTE IL CAPRICCIO, La Colombe Court, St Helier. Tel: 0534 34892. Hours of opening: lunch, 12 noon to 2.30 pm, last orders; dinner, 6 pm to 10.30 pm, last orders; closed Sundays.



BARGAIN BONANZA

NEXT week sees the start of the Knightsbridge sales, with the opportunity to indulge in something extravagant and glamorous to wear at a fraction of the original price.

How about the mad luxury of a shocking pink silk jumpsuit, or even a sequined evening dress by the Emanuel?

Alternatively, Jean Muir's M range in Wool is reduced to half-price in Harrod's sale.

Harvey Nichols kicks off first on Thursday, Harrod's starts Friday, Charles Jourd-

on Wednesday, and Loewe, the leather specialists, on Monday, January 7, with some bargains in top-quality leather clothes.

Round the corner in Beauchamp Place, Bruce Oldfield's shop holds its first sale of glamour outfits like the stunning dress we feature.

Also in Beauchamp Place, a new shop, Sava, which offers a very personal service, good alterations and professional dry cleaning, has big discounts on all merchandise during the Knightsbridge sales period.

Ann Chubb

In our sketch (by Lisa Hadjidakis) from left to right: stunning silk satin dress in silver grey with a Tweekies air is reduced from £240 to £200 in a selection of bargains at Bruce Oldfield's sale starting January 4 at 27 Beauchamp Place, London SW3; beautifully-cut jumpsuit in shocking pink silk satin is down from £225 to £185 in sizes 8-18, also red, black or white at Sava, 5 Beauchamp Place. Unmistakable Jean Muir dress from her M in Wool collection is down from £299 to £149 in fuchsia or petrol, sizes 8-14; only for the skinny; dress with skin-tight sequined bodice above floating silk skirt is down from £352 to £178, also purple, sizes 10 to 14, by Emanuel; fashionable lacy insets for a black crepe Monica Chang dress reduced from £215 to £107, sizes 10-14, all in Harrod's sale starting January 4.

On the road to recovery, after a prolonged bout of good resolutions

BY LORRAINE COLLINS

I USED to be hooked on New Year's resolutions, deciding that this was the year I'd lose 10 lb, open up a savings account, plant a herb garden, get a good photograph of the entire family, learn the rules of cricket and write Christmas cards before December 23.

In my mind, I would have the whole year nearly planned, awaiting nothing but my personal industry and inventiveness to turn it into a year of glorious triumph. It wasn't easy to give all that up.

Years of habitual use had me dependent on New Year's resolutions, even when I knew from experience that in a matter of months, weeks, days, or even hours, I would begin to feel the depression that inevitably followed when the initial effort of the resolutions had worn off.

Last year I finally decided to quit, in a carefully controlled programme of tapering-off, with the support of understanding friends and relatives and now that I am on the road to recovery, like every other reformed person, I want to share my message with the world.

I realise we live in a society which makes it very difficult for those of us who want to quit resolutions. I blame it on advertising which, especially at this time of year, makes resolutions sound attractive and even patriotic.

Yet the fact is that some people can handle New Year's resolutions, and some of us can't. Those who can be both calm and well-organised 20 minutes before their first party guests arrive, and those who can carry through on career plans developed at the age of 12 can handle resolutions, at least in moderation. The rest of us are better off facing our situation for what it is.

Several times over the holiday season, I was saved from resolutions only by concentrating fiercely on February, repeating the word over and over to myself, trying to induce a trance. The effort has been worth it. My programme is working.

Last year I began by allowing myself only two resolutions for the year.

One was to see the bottom of the laundry basket at least once, and the other was to develop a warm relationship with my houseplants, so that they would flourish.

In August, when I still had not seen the bottom of the laundry basket, I gave the entire thing to a jumble sale in desperation, including two school uniforms and the only pair of matching socks my

husband had to his name. The houseplants, of course, had turned their faces to the wall and quietly died in March.

The memory of just those two disastrous resolutions has sustained me throughout this season, but nevertheless it took quite a lot of will power and determination to choose just one resolution to see me through 1985.

I wondered whether I should resolve to plan menus for an entire month, never once including fish fingers, or whether I should resolve to find all the lids for my Tupperware. In the end, I felt that the last resolution should be historic, challenging, poetic and meaningful. It should also be one that would convince me without doubt that I should never try resolutions again.

At last, when the time arrived for me to write down my ultimate and historic resolution, I wrote: "For the entire year of 1985, I will refrain from telling my husband how many times I have asked him to fix the lock on the bathroom door."

If this resolution lasts beyond the second week of January, I have a more serious case than I thought.

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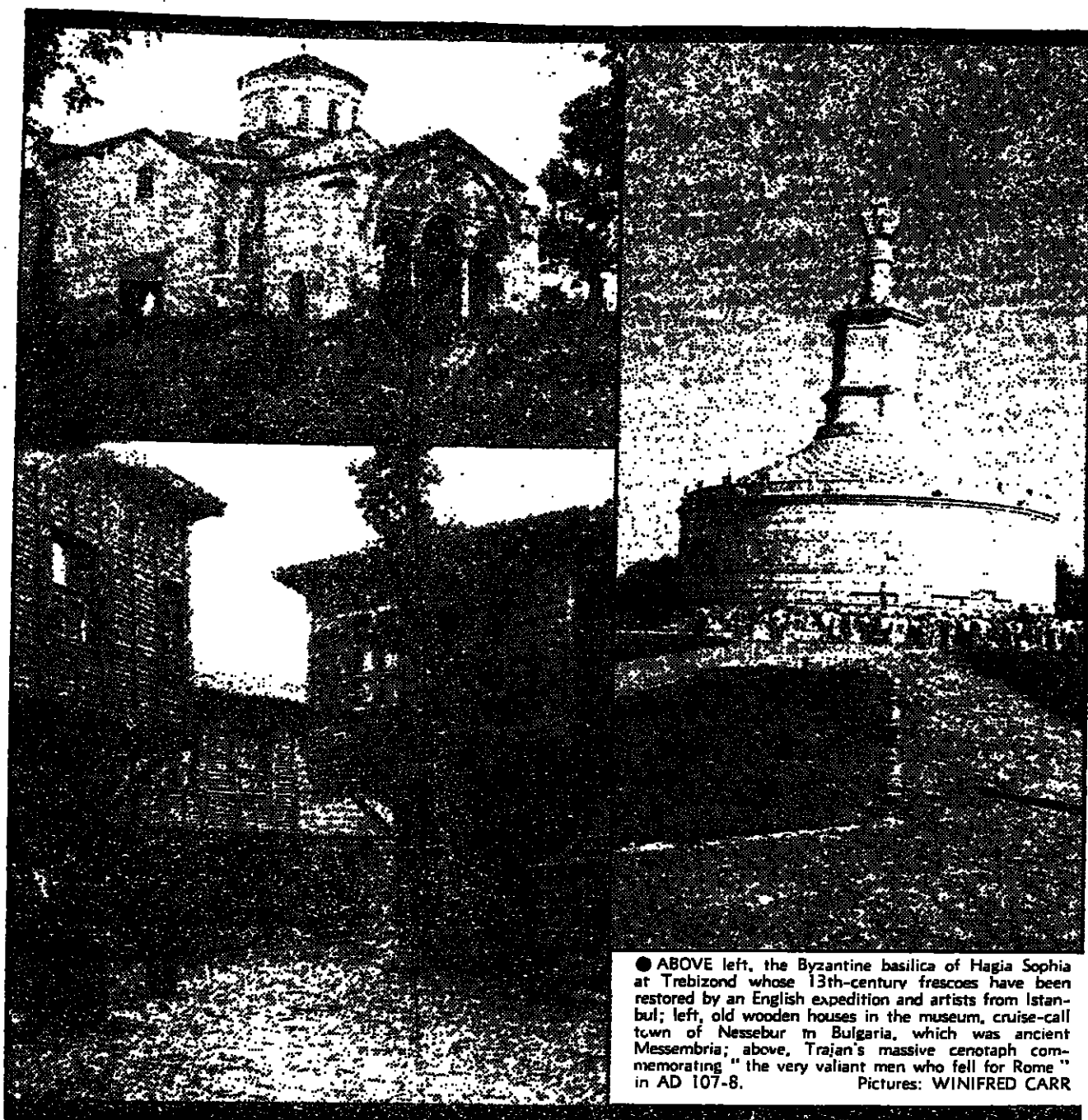
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The last of the splendour that was Trebizond



THE graffiti on the bathroom wall of the old hotel in one corner of Trebizond's main square used to read: "If you wish to see the splendour of Trebizond, pull the plug. Aunt Rosie."

In another corner used to be a caravanserai, terminus and resting place for the camel caravans which travelled between

Trebizond and Tabriz, 32 days away. Rightly enough, the site is now the local bus station.

Rose Macaulay's Aunt Dot and her camel must have lured many travellers to Trebizond. Probably the wag who wrote the now legendary graffiti was one, or he might have been with the team of British archaeologists working in the area.

The buses from modern

Trabzon run along Turkey's Black Sea coast where Amazons ruled, from where the Romans carried the first cherry trees to Europe and the Pontic honey that drove ancient armies mad is still being gathered.

Hazelnuts are a more important export from Trebizond these days and one of the best customers is Cadbury.

Little is left to see of the glittering splendour of the last outpost of the Byzantine empire, or the earlier city re-built by Hadrian over the even earlier colony of Trapezus where Xenophon's Ten Thousand reached the sea. The foundations of Hadrian's wall still outline the ancient city, but all that is left of the palace of the Byzantine emperors with its white marble floors, frescoed

his first visit to Russia. "The history of Russia indicates that it isn't merely Marxism that produces the Russian sense of centralisation," he told us. "It goes back to the identity of the Khans and the Czar. The Khans embodied the state and commanded complete dependence on the state, autocracy, total subservience to the state which we sometimes attribute solely to Marxism."

"In 15th-century Muscovy terror was used as an instrument of state power."

"The way in which Russia is run seems to be thoroughly Russian: namely, centralisation, collectivism and terror when needs be. Getting some understanding of the way Russia is run may be important to the survival of all of us."

There is dancing after dinner but no disco, bingo, cabaret, fruit machines, or fancy dress parties.

By Winifred Carr

There is sunbathing on deck, a pool, a choice of buffet meals or formal ones in the dining salon, shore excursions almost every day to great cities like Istanbul, Cairo and Athens and the most famous archaeological sites in the Mediterranean and Black Sea.

Next year, for the first time, the ship goes through the Suez Canal for Luxor, Karnak and the Valley of the Kings and calls into Jordan's Red Sea port of Aqaba for an excursion to the rose red city of Petra.

The Black Sea will be cruised again, in June and August.

The first cruise of the year leaves on March 2; and the ship cruises without a break until the Christmas cruise in the eastern Mediterranean, finishing in Orpheus's home port of Piraeus on Jan. 2. Prices range from £777 a person for 13 nights including air fares to and from the ship, most shore excursions, all tips, travel insurance and a first class return ticket to Gatwick from your nearest British Rail station.

Outside the town and beside the sea is the Hagia Sophia, a Greek colony built over the site of a Thracian settlement. Its Byzantine churches and more recent wooden houses fronting on to cobbled squares and streets have caused it to be turned into a carefully-preserved museum town, but unlike some others, it is lived in.

We called in at Neshebur in Bulgaria, once ancient Mesembria, a Greek colony built over the site of a Thracian settlement. Its Byzantine churches and more recent wooden houses fronting on to cobbled squares and streets have caused it to be turned into a carefully-preserved museum town, but unlike some others, it is lived in.

At Adamklissi in Rumania, we were dwarfed by the vast Roman war memorial built by Trajan to commemorate the men who died in the campaigns which subdued the Dacians and created a new Roman province.

Back at the local museum which now houses the statues and sculpted panels which decorated the frieze around the huge stone drum, a gypsy woman and her children were shooed away from our coach by a local guide. "They've no need to beg. They have work," he said.

Our ship, the Orpheus, followed us along the coast and back on board we sailed past Balaklava on our way to Yalta and Sochi.

At sea, we were back in our art class, for this cruise had artists Ernest and Eileen Greenwood on board, who ran the Orpheus Art Group and were kind even to those of us whose groups of trees they mistook for clumps of grass. And we listened to talks given by the distinguished academics who were travelling with us as guest lecturers.

One of them was the very new Bishop of Durham, the Rt Rev. David Jenkins, who was making

● ABOVE left, the Byzantine basilica of Hagia Sophia at Trebizond whose 13th-century frescoes have been restored by an English expedition and artists from Istanbul; left, old wooden houses in the museum, cruise-call town of Neshebur in Bulgaria, which was ancient Mesembria; above, Trajan's massive cenotaph commemorating "the very valiant men who fell for Rome" in AD 107-8. Pictures: WINIFRED CARR

Taking in the spectacular fjord-show of Norway's coast

DRIFTING in eerie silence between great sheets of mountain bathed in midnight sun, we could have been on another planet. Cruise addicts would have it that sea-travel can be out of this world, and they are right.

Up in northern Norway amongst fjords so breathtakingly beautiful they almost stun the senses, the scenery even dwarfed the luxury of our liner. This ship, which had looked so massive against the quayside, was toy-sized compared to the soaring rock-faces in the fjords.

The Royal Viking Sky takes 12 days to sail from Copenhagen to Southampton, during which vistas of Oslo, Trondheim, Moeningsvaag, Olden and Bergen slide by, punctuated by the neat, farmhouse hamlets strung out along the Nord and Geiranger fjords.

First stop is under Oslo's

By Stephanie Ponsford

Akershus fortress, from where passengers can strike out, independently or with a tour, for the Hovikodden Arts Centre and its Picasso, Miro and other works.

They can go farther afield if they wish, to Fagner Park, where Gustav Vigeland's sculptures, statues and vast, astonishing monolith of 121 intertwined figures make an evocative one-man show; and to the museum of Edvard Munch, whose paintings, etchings, lithographs, books, letters and documents reflect the life of this powerful Expressionist artist.

Another organised choice is to drive up to the dizzy

heights of the Holmenkollen ski jump and on to a quiet of museums on the Bygdoy Peninsula, where Viking ships and other nautical themes vie with reconstructed folk buildings depicting town and country life over the centuries.

The great joy, of course, about going on to the next destination by ship is avoiding the formalities and frustrations of air travel. Passengers stroll on board into a seemingly endless procession of games, lectures, fitness sessions, parties, cabarets, dances and so forth, punctuated by multi-course meals served in a variety of elegant dining areas.

The Geiranger is the best possible introduction to Norway's spectacular fjord-show because of its mind-boggling heights. Laced with dazzling waterfalls and frosted lakes, it is particularly spell-binding on a summer's night with the sun still radiantly overhead: magical to watch from the deck in the early hours of the morning.

At Geiranger itself, cruise passengers without vertigo problems are taken up via Djuvasshytta mountain lodge to the Dalenibba Observation Point at more than 5,000ft, before sailing on to the medieval, ecclesiastical and cultural attractions of Trondheim.

By this time, a combination of sequestered seascapes and armchair scenery was so lulling that only a few of us chose to go ashore. I found the Nidaros Cathedral fascinating and the Modern Art Museum so inspiring that I spent hours in the shops looking for less valuable reproductions of its sculptures, paintings and furniture pieces.

Royal Viking Line considers it has two of the world's finest ships. Though their biggest appeal is to Americans, the market from Britain is growing among people prepared to pay steeply for highly-cosseted sea-travel.

The mixed-nationality crew of the Viking Sky, all chosen from the top of their profession, mostly kept to their own deck when off-duty, but went ashore with the passengers in port.

Those of us prepared to forgo a sunny afternoon on deck while berthed at Moeningsvaag drove up along rough roads to the North Cape Plateau, from where we sent postcards with special postmarks, allegedly much coveted by philatelists, and looked out over King Louis Philippe's bust to views of the open Arctic.

In Olden, at the end of Nord Fjord's innermost arm, we by-passed pretty houses and farms in the Upper Valley for a snowy walk on the Briksdal Glacier. At Bergen, urban highlight of the voyage, I found the wharf so enticing with its old wooden Hanseatic houses, that the organised excursion to Edvard Grieg's home seemed superfluous.

But another option would have been a visit to the 12th-century "Fantoff" stave church, strikingly reminiscent of the finials on Thai temples in Bangkok.

Next year, Viking Line will be charging from £1,495 for a 12-day package which includes flight to Copenhagen and an extra stop at Tromsø. Major shipboard expenses are tips: £2 a day per head recommended for table waiters and the cabin stewards. Drinks average £1-80 each.

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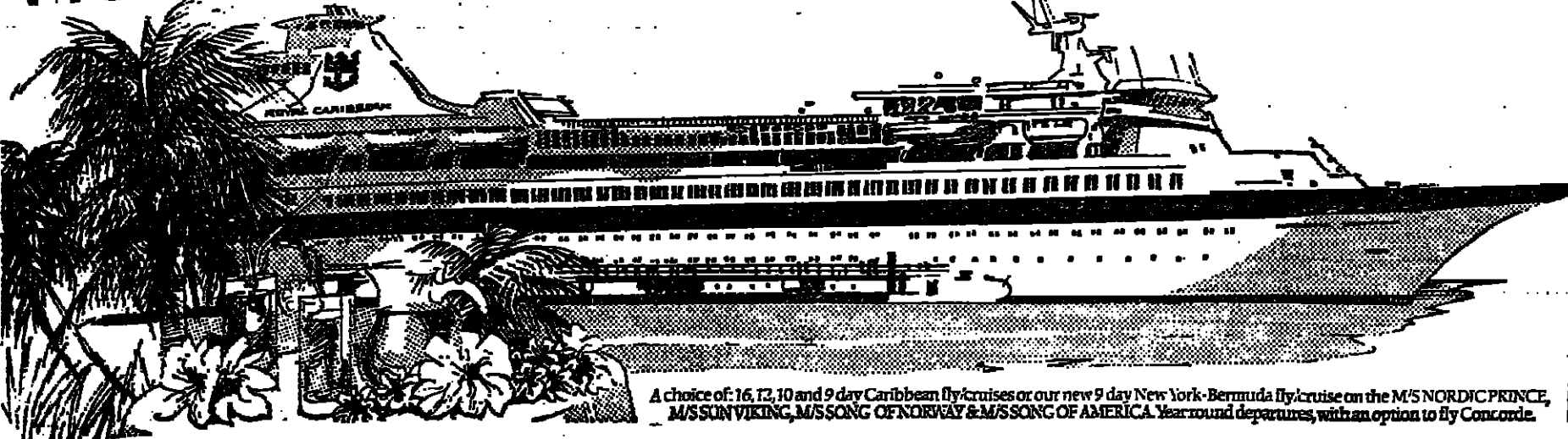
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NAME _____ ADDRESS _____ POSTCODE _____ G/DY/1

'Tough time' faces crewmen in Admiral's Cup

By TONY FAIRCHILD Yachting Correspondent

THE Admiral's Cup, which has attracted ten newcomers to what essentially is the world championship of ocean-racing and likely to cost British participants £3 million in new boats, will "be a nightmare for crewmen."

Mr Jonathan Bradbeer, vice-commander of the five-race series, which begins from Cowes on July 31, added: "It will be an especially tough summer."

With 23 British boats, about a dozen of them new, expected to compete in the trials to decide the three-boat team for the international series, competition will be especially testing.

It will begin with tuning-up trials—getting yacht and crew to maximum efficiency—in early Spring, and as well as the normal summer racing programme, there will be five weeks of special selection events in June.

A number of the yachts involved in the Admiral's Cup trials will also be racing in the One Ton Cup, a world championship for craft of around 40-ft, and to be sponsored by Jaguar at Poole in mid-July.

Demands on time

Mr Bradbeer said it seemed probable that because of demands on time and the probability that the British Admiral's Cup team will include one or more craft which has competed in the One Ton Cup, that there will be crew changes.

Owners of new boats spending around £350,000 on their craft, face odds of about 8 to 1 against gaining selection for the Admiral's Cup—though ten British yachts will be able to compete in the One Ton Cup.

It is the "bonus" of being able to compete in the much acclaimed One Ton Cup event that is considered to have done most to attract so many newcomers to the Admiral's Cup.

These come from Scotland and the West Country—Local Hero (H. Howison) and Caicara (P. Adams) respectively—and include property developers, bankers and restaurateurs.

Martin Gibson and Brian Swaby are among the property

developers, while Lloyd Banks is the banker planning to compete for the first time with a new boat.

Tim Herring, a past Commodore of the Royal Burnham Yacht Club, will be taking part for the first time as an owner in the Admiral's Cup trials with Ark II, a 43-footer designed by Julian Everitt.

Mr Herring, who has a restaurant in London, opened one also in Newport, Rhode Island, called The Ark—during the 1980s America's Cup series which involved the Royal Burnham challenger Victory '83, owned by Peter de Savary.

Other newcomers

Other newcomers are expected to include John Meller, Mike Peacock, Geoff Thompson, and Richard Fleck.

Sir Owen Aisher, Robin Aisher, Chris Dunning and John Bassett, are past or present Flag Officers of the RORC familiar with the international series, and Robin Aisher has been captain of the British team for a record four times.

Graham Walker, who lives in the Channel Islands, and Peter Whipp, from the Isle of Man, have each been captains also of British ocean-racing teams, and have gone to French designers for new boats.

Other well-known yachtsmen who indicated they would be involved are: John Oswald, Richard Matthews, John Morris, Larry Woodell, Geoff Pannell and John Burton.

The British team for the Champagne-Mumm-sponsored Admiral's Cup, likely to attract more than 15 overseas countries, is to be named on July 1.

The biennial event, won for the second time two years ago by the West Germans, ends with the 650-mile Fastnet Race, starting from Cowes and finishing at Plymouth.

Anti-vandal trains prove a big success

By STANLEY GOLDSMITH

Q TRAINS, an anti-vandal scheme pioneered by British Rail on Tyneside and Merseyside, have proved so effective in Glasgow that Scottish Region is to introduce a fourth such train in the Edinburgh area.

Literary scene hucksters

LOOK how much time

Norman Mailer wastes on having to be Norman Mailer. Thus John Updike talking to Sebastian Faulks about one of America's most successful authors.

But success in American publishing these days is not going so much to the old-school writers as to a new breed specialising in horror, sex... and business studies.

In THE SUNDAY TELEGRAPH tomorrow Sebastian Faulks reports from the centre of U.S. publishing, New York—a whacky city where publishers hype their wares with rare fillets of beef, breathtaking dry martinis and slick chat.

CAPTOR OF PURSE THIEF COMMENDED

A businessman who was

punched in the face citizen's arrest on the platform at a London underground station, was commended yesterday by Mr Jeremy Connor, Metropolitan Police magistrate, for catching a purse thief.

Liaton Barnes, 21, a painter and decorator of Rutland Road, Clapham South, was jailed for four-and-a-half months after he admitted causing actual bodily harm to Mr Christopher Goodall, of Flood Street, Chelsea.

He further admitted stealing Miss Michaela Merton's purse and contents at Tottenham Court Road tube station.

Five men, including Mr Goodall, caught Barnes who punched Mr Goodall in the face and chest.

CREWE FACELIFT

By Our Transport Correspondent

A "continuous loop" video film lasting six minutes is shown at Crewe Station explaining how and why £14,500,000 is being spent on modernisation, which will include visual close-down of the station

from June 2 to July 21 while track layouts and signalling are altered.

RSC to visit Poland in New Year

By HARVEY LEE Arts Staff

A TOUR of Poland by the Royal Shakespeare Company, the first in 15 years by a major British company, will next month lead £300,000 overseas cultural invasion unveiled yesterday by the British Council.

The plans also include the Royal Ballet in Hungary and East Germany, Ballet Rambert in Poland, the Academy of St. Martin in the Fields in Czechoslovakia, violinist Nigel Kennedy in Russia and a Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet tour of India, the first by a British dance company.

Mr Robert Sykes, director of Dance and Drama for the British Council, described the package as "the greatest concentration ever of British artistic talent in Eastern Europe."

The RSC visit is a diplomatic triumph for the British Council, which faces a shortfall of £2 million in its 1985/86 operating budget of £180 million because of cuts ordered by the Foreign Secretary.

13 performances

Almost 40 actors and technical staff will fly out to Warsaw on Jan. 14 after hurried negotiations earlier this month between the British Council, the RSC and the Polish authorities.

Touring productions of "The Winter's Tale" and "The Crucible," due to be disbanded at the end of the year will now play 15 performances in a students centre in Warsaw and a film studio in Wrocław.

The British Council will spend £75,000 on the RSC tour, and the Polish government has agreed to meet all hotel and travel expenses.

The last British company to visit Poland was also the RSC, when it played its acclaimed Peter Brook production of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" in Warsaw in 1975 as part of an Iron Curtain tour.

Music events being supported by the British Council in the first half of 1985 will include the English Baroque Soloists and the Monteverdi Choir performing Handel's "Israel in Egypt" in Halle, East Germany, the composer's birthplace, and a tour by the Academy of Ancient Music to Austria, Germany and Italy.

Art tours

Art exhibitions will visit Sydney, Perth and Hannover. For the autumn opening of "The Treasure Houses of Britain" at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, the British Council will ship out 800 art treasures.

The East European events are announced at a time when the British Council is about to begin delicate negotiations with Soviet officials over possible visits by British dance and drama companies in 1986.

Mr Sykes explained: "Ever since the recent ministerial exchanges we have been able to develop an understanding with Poland. We were only waiting for the right moment to send the best possible company."

WOGAN QUILTS RADIO TWO FOR TV WORK

Terry Wogan quit BBC radio

yesterday after broadcasting his final Radio Two breakfast programme.

He said: "I don't think there will be too many tears. A year from now people will say: 'Who was that fellow who used to do the morning show?'"

Wogan, who had 12 years on radio, has given it up to concentrate on a new three-times-a-week BBC TV chat show, due to start in February.

'Frog-lover' jibes in language campaign

By ERIC DOWD in Toronto

GOVERNMENT officials trying to promote wider use of French in the largely English-speaking province of New Brunswick, have been pelted with eggs, called "frog-lovers" and told to "get back to France."

The Conservative provincial government is trying to increase French speaking following a study showing it has fallen behind in implementing a policy of bilingualism adopted in 1968.

The policy guarantees residents the right to government services in English or French according to choice. But many services, including civil trials and some other court proceedings, are not fully available in French.

French-speaking residents, who form 35 per cent of the population, now have 30 per cent of government jobs but fewer than 20 per cent of posts in the senior Civil Service.

Francophones are also having difficulty obtaining French schools although the law enables 50 or more French-speaking parents to request a school or school section operating in French.

'Language police'

The Conservative Government's attempts to fill the gaps have been met by many protests, particularly from a newly-formed association of English New Brunswickers.

The association, and many outside it, are protesting that a practice of advertising for bilingual civil servants is ex-



Senator Edward Kennedy meeting a group of children after food had been distributed in Om Sott, a Sudanese village badly affected by drought.

Tightened security for royal pheasant shoot

PRINCE PHILIP headed the first pheasant shoot of the Royal Family's six-week New Year stay at Sandringham yesterday, amid the tightest security yet seen on the Royal estate.

Police dogs patrolled the 20,000-acre estate as Prince Philip drove a stretched shooting brake, loaded with fellow guns, out of the grounds of Sandringham House.

Police in unmarked cars constantly patrolled public roads on the estate, as the five-hour shoot got under way three miles from Sandringham.

Last season Prince Philip and his friends shot 4,000 pheasants, but birds are thinner on the ground this year. Storms during the breeding season killed off many chicks.

Prince Philip does not handle birds and relies entirely on wild game for his sport. During the past 20 years the Royal family have shot around 150,000 pheasants at Sandringham. Yesterday's bag is not expected to exceed 200 pheasants. Partridges are virtually non-existent.

Tomorrow as many as 10,000 people are expected to be in the royal park to greet the Queen when she attends morning service in the 150-seat parish church. The Bishop of Norwich, the Rt Rev. Maurice Wood will conduct the service.

Bags and cameras will be banned from the park, and some visitors may face body searches.

Prince Edward was ordered to avoid the most gruelling parts of a Commando assault course after telling senior Royal Marines officers that he had sprained his ankle playing football.

While 40 other young Marines completed the course at the Commando Training Centre, Lympstone, Devon, the Prince, 20, a second lieutenant, who had been seen limping when he arrived just before Christmas, was told to attempt only easier exercises.

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Council house rent arrears soar to £240m

By JOHN GRIGSBY Local Government Correspondent

COUNCIL rent arrears have trebled over the last three years and are still increasing fast. Latest figures show tenants owe local authorities more than £240 million.

The situation is worrying council leaders and politicians, but there is little Mr Jenkin, the Environment Secretary, and Mr Gow, the Minister for Housing and Construction, can do about it.

The collection of rents is a matter for the local authorities and there is no central control of the methods used.

In London alone, the total of back rent has risen by nearly 50 per cent over the last year, according to the journal London Housing. Tenants now owe £111 million, compared with £77 million a year ago.

A total of 350,000 tenants—four in every nine—are in arrears. One Lambeth family owes more than £7,000.

In Southwark nearly £20 million is owed, in Lambeth £8.5 million, in Hackney £6.7 million, in Islington £5.8, and in Brent £5.1 million.

Throughout the country, according to the Audit Commission, more than a million current tenants are in arrears.

Daunting problem The Commission says that a "daunting" problem faces housing managers. Without new approaches, the prospects of recovering more than a small fraction of the money is not good.

In 1980 arrears accounted for 3.8 per cent of the total rent roll. Last year they made up 5 per cent.

It will also consider allegations that the rights of minority parties on councils have been ignored.

Ministers have been embarrassed and angered by the ease with which the GLC and some Left-wing authorities have been able to flout their intentions and what they regard as public opinion. Often, a particular incident could only be tested if a council was willing to take it to the High Court.

The Government hopes that the inquiry will make recommendations about a number of "grey areas" where the present legal position is not clear. These would then be embodied in a Bill with all-party support.

The inquiry will also examine allegations that some officers have been selected for their political views rather than their ability and that standing orders have been manipulated to stifle debate.

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New York and the hype of bad taste

In America, as in England, books are merchandise, with publishers pushing horror, sex...and business studies. But what has happened to Am. Lit.? Sebastian Faulks reports from New York, the nation's books capital.

Princess Diana's year: the impact that she has made on the public in the past twelve months is examined by Catherine Stott.

What shares to buy in 1985: our City experts make their predictions.

In The Colour Magazine

What's new in travel: in the first of a series 'Breaking new ground'—Travel 1985, Brendan Lehané looks back on lazy days in Antigua. Is the West Indies resort still a dream island in the sun?

Round-up of the passing year: Anthony Haden-Guest says 1984 did not bear out Orwell's predictions yet 'everything, despite some lighter moments, was far from hunkydory.'

In tomorrow's

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WOMAN TURNS-TABLE

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askers—like most snows, found that particularly sought-after items were peripherals like joysticks, interface boxes, and memory devices, plus software. These sold faster than the machines.

This may be because as the evaluation of computers rises, the

[illegible]

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REED STENHOUSE GIBBS

THE DAILY TELEGRAPH SHARE RACE 1985

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ONCE again we invite readers to try their skill at Stock Exchange investments by naming the single share in our daily lists which they believe will outperform all others during 1985.

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As prizes there will be at least 100 bottles of champagne with magnifying for the outright winners. The reader or readers who nominate the winning share will each be sent a bottle. Then those nominating the second-best share... and so on.

We would like to hear from people for whom investment is an occasional hobby as well as from those whose work involves financial matters.

THE RULES

1. Competitors must select ONE

SHARE ONLY from the securities listed on the prices page of The Daily Telegraph. Entries must be limited to one per person. Multiple applications will be rejected and securities standing at less than 10p are excluded.

2. Entries should only be made

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 Name and Address and telephone number _____

Tel: _____
 Please mark your envelope "Competition."

on forms printed in The Daily Telegraph. Photocopies are not acceptable.

3. Starting prices will be taken at the close of business on January 2, 1985 as shown in The Daily Telegraph of January 3, 1985.

4. Final prices will be taken at

the close of business on December 6, 1985, as shown in The Daily Telegraph on December 7, 1985.

5. Share prices will be adjusted for scrip and rights issues during the year.

6. Shares subject to a takeover bid which becomes unconditional will be valued at the higher of cash or share alternative as at the date the bid becomes unconditional.

7. Entries must be received by January 4, 1985.

8. The City Editor's decision in all matters is final and no correspondence will be entered into.

9. Employees of The Daily Telegraph, Sunday Telegraph and Telegraph Sunday Magazine and their families are not eligible to enter the competition.

Andrew Whitlam Smith, City Editor

COMPANIES

Wm Low buys Laws Stores

DUNDEE-BASED supermarket operator Wm Low and Co. itself widely tipped as a takeover target, is buying Laws Stores, a privately-owned food chain in the North East, for £5.85 million in a package of shares, loan notes and cash.

Laws, with its head office at Gatheshead, operates 44 stores in the North East and in the south east of Scotland with a total sales area of 170,000 sq ft. Pre-tax profits for the year to April were £45,000 on a turnover of £54 million. Net assets were £4.69 million.

Wm Low's managing director, James Millar, says the acquisition, which should be completed

next month, "will give us a base in the north of England which we have been seeking for some time."

The shares closed at 513p, up 8p.

IN BRIEF

AI Industrial Products: Cumulative preference dividend due Dec. 31 will not be paid. **Stavert Zigomala:** First half p.t. profit £28,300 (£22,900). T.O. £250,000 (£227,800). EPS. per ordinary, 6-64p (5-28p); per deferred, 5-25p (4-1p). As usual, no int. div. **Bestwood:** First half pre-tax profit £4,000 (£113,000) including income from investments and interest £15,000 (£116,000). Turnover £497,000 (£530,000). Eps 0.15p (0.18p).

RIGHTS ISSUES

Comben COMBEN GROUP, a Trafalgar House subsidiary, is redeeming all its 2-9m 11-3/16 p.c. cumulative

redeemable preference shares on April 1 at 107-5p a share. Holders will also get the fixed cumulative dividend due on March 31 of 5-6875p, exclusive of associated tax credit.

BIDS AND DEALS

Brooke Bond sells Baxters

UNION INTERNATIONAL, the Vestey family's food and transportation business, is buying Baxters Butchers from Brooke Bond for £24 million cash.

Brooke Bond has been trying to sell Baxters for two years. Last October Brooke Bond was taken over by Unilever, which successfully outbid Tate & Lyle for the group with a £589 million offer. As well as Baxters Unilever said it would review the position of Brooke Bond's timber subsidiary, Mallinson Denny. But a spokesman said yesterday no decision has been taken yet on Mallinson Denny's future.

United Newspapers

THE SECRETARY of State for Trade and Industry has given his consent for United Newspapers to become proprietor of the newspapers owned by the Yellow Advertiser Group, a free newspaper publisher.

The proposals form part of United's agreed £28-5m bid for

Comfort-Ladbroke

IN YESTERDAY'S *Questionnaire* column the caption to the graph was incorrect. The solid line related to Ladbroke Group and the dotted line, which showed the greater rise in recent weeks, represented the share price movement of Comfort Hotels.

Link House Publications, which has gone unconditional.

Churchbury

THE formal offer document in the Greycoat City Offices 280m bid for Churchbury Estates, shows that holders of the Churchbury convertible stock will receive 93-1m new Greycoat shares plus 280-3m nominal of loan stock for each £100 nominal of Churchbury convertible stock.

AUSTRALIAN SHARE PRICES

AS 1984	Low	High	Company	AS	Low	High	Change
5-46	4-27	5-15	ANZ Banking Group	5-15	3-65	+0-03	
4-60	4-20	2-28	Ampol Exploration	2-28	1-62	+0-10	
1-97	1-46	1-93	AGL International	1-93	1-37	+0-04	
2-48	1-85	2-17	Aust. Paper Manufacturers	2-17	1-54	+0-01	
0-87	0-23	0-63	Bentley Petroleum	0-63	0-45	—	
7-00	3-90	4-68	Bell Group	4-68	3-32	+0-08	
3-59	3-45	3-59	Brambles	3-59	2-54	+0-01	
3-65	2-05	2-40	Bridge Oil	2-40	1-70	+0-11	
5-90	4-61	5-07	Broken Hill Proprietary	5-07	3-59	+0-05	
6-20	4-54	4-92	C.R.A.	4-92	3-49	+0-03	
4-40	2-73	2-73	Coles G.J.	2-73	1-93	+0-05	
4-21	3-53	3-93	Coles G.J.	3-93	2-79	+0-08	
3-54	2-28	3-07	Elders IXL	3-07	2-18	+0-02	
3-95	1-78	2-99	Harvie (James) Inds.	2-99	2-12	+0-01	
1-84	1-35	1-84	Heuker Corp.	1-84	1-30	+0-01	
2-50	1-79	2-03	ICI Australia	2-03	1-44	+0-01	
5-82	4-07	5-21	Land Lease	5-21	3-69	+0-03	
4-14	2-81	2-81	MIM Holdings	2-81	1-64	+0-02	
3-84	2-10	2-89	M.A.N. Nickless	2-89	2-05	+0-04	
2-25	1-22	1-65	Myer Emporium	1-65	1-17	+0-01	
13-00	7-80	11-85	News Corp.	11-85	8-04	+0-02	
5-17	2-45	5-17	Nicholas Kiwi	5-17	3-66	+0-02	
1-20	0-60	0-73	Oakbridge	0-73	0-52	+0-07	
2-18	1-70	2-16	P & O Australia	2-16	1-53	+0-01	
2-10	1-26	1-61	Pioneer Concrete	1-61	1-14	+0-05	
1-20	0-95	1-09	Q.C.T.	1-09	0-77	+0-02	
4-40	2-45	3-48	Renison Goldfields	3-48	2-47	+0-01	
6-96	5-25	5-52	Santos	5-52	3-91	+0-01	
2-10	1-56	1-71	Thomas N.Wide Transport	1-71	1-21	+0-01	
7-30	3-85	4-25	Woolies Petroleum	4-25	3-01	+0-09	
4-40	2-75	2-88	Western Mining Corp.	2-88	2-04	+0-06	
4-08	3-44	3-44	Westpac	3-44	2-44	+0-32	
1-36	0-91	0-96	Woodside Petroleum	0-96	0-68	+0-02	
3-52	2-48	3-08	Wormald International	3-08	2-18	+0-01	

Source: J. B. Wore.

MONEY & EXCHANGES

Another hard day for pound

THE dollar climbed to new peaks against the pound and other major currencies yesterday as investors took the view that the next move in American interest rates is more likely to be up than down.

The soaring dollar and continued oil price fears sent the pound to a low of \$1.590 in early London trading. But sterling recovered later, helped by German action in support of the mark. It ended the day at \$1.627 against \$1.643 overnight.

The sterling index, measuring the pound's performance against all major currencies, closed 0.1 down at 73.2 having touched its previous low of 73 earlier in the day.

Fears for the pound and expectations of higher money costs across the Atlantic forced up the price of wholesale funds in London. The key three-month interbank rate rose from 10 p.c. to 10 1/4 p.c. yesterday, thus forcing up from their present level of 9 1/2 p.c.

Upward pressure on British money costs was reflected in a rise from 8.133 p.c. to 8.125 p.c. in the Treasury bill rate at the weekly tender.

The Bank of England acted generously yesterday to prevent cash shortages in the banking system adding to other pressures on money costs. The Bank provided a cash injection of £781 million against an estimated liquidity shortage of £750 million.

COMMODITIES

LONDON METAL MARKETS **ROBBER** Steady. Midday cash 548-50. 3 months 558-50. 6 months 568-50. 12 months 578-50. 18 months 588-50. 24 months 598-50. 30 months 608-50. 36 months 618-50. 42 months 628-50. 48 months 638-50. 54 months 648-50. 60 months 658-50. 66 months 668-50. 72 months 678-50. 78 months 688-50. 84 months 698-50. 90 months 708-50. 96 months 718-50. 102 months 728-50. 108 months 738-50. 114 months 748-50. 120 months 758-50. 126 months 768-50. 132 months 778-50. 138 months 788-50. 144 months 798-50. 150 months 808-50. 156 months 818-50. 162 months 828-50. 168 months 838-50. 174 months 848-50. 180 months 858-50. 186 months 868-50. 192 months 878-50. 198 months 888-50. 204 months 898-50. 210 months 908-50. 216 months 918-50. 222 months 928-50. 228 months 938-50. 234 months 948-50. 240 months 958-50. 246 months 968-50. 252 months 978-50. 258 months 988-50. 264 months 998-50. 270 months 1008-50. 276 months 1018-50. 282 months 1028-50. 288 months 1038-50. 294 months 1048-50. 300 months 1058-50. 306 months 1068-50. 312 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FAMILY MONEY-GO-ROUND



SAVE & PROSPER THE WINNER

GIVE 11 leading unit trust managers £5,000 to invest in up to three of their own trusts, and what happens? We did just that at the start of the year, and eight have come up with profits of some sort, while three would have been better off leaving their investment in cash, writes RICHARD NORTHDIDGE.

Our annual unit trust managers competition requires them to operate on exactly the same terms that they would offer to the investing public. They buy at offer prices and sell at bid prices; they can switch as often as they like, but apart from the discount that they offer other investors, they must pay the cost of the spread.

The £5,000 is only nominal of course, but any investor who followed Save & Prosper's choice would be sitting on an 18 p.c. net gain if he sold at the prices that will be available on Monday—the last trading day of the year.

Save & Prosper have come top in their golden jubilee year—but their gain compares with a 25 p.c. rise in the FT Actuaries Index of United Kingdom shares for instance—which though excluding dealing costs on the one hand, also excludes dividends paid on those shares. Our managers' units are accumulation units or we re-invest dividends.

Save & Prosper's capital gain is less than the 46 p.c. scored in 1983 by the then winners, TSB. But all competi-

tors made a profit that year, and we warned in January that it was there that they scored their success: S & P's Investment Trust Units in particular have only just broken even.

This year's winner, and Schroder the runner-up, both put two-thirds of their money into their Japanese smaller

companies funds—Schroder's launched only in January. And it was there that they scored their success: S & P's Investment Trust Units in particular have only just broken even.

But the loss-making trusts include two technology funds, two gold trusts, a gilt fund,

Henderson's Global Healthcare fund, and an Australian and Far Eastern fund.

Britannia's Far East fund is biased not to the successful Japan, but to Malaysia and Singapore. Target also started with its Malaysian fund but chose to switch at a loss to its better performing Pacific trust early in the year.

Target also switched from its Special Situations fund to its gold trust at a small loss—only to see gold perform even more badly.

Switching is expensive however, even if Target's 4 p.c. discounts are more generous than other companies'. The only other switch during the year was HFI Samuel's move from Japanese Technology to its Dollar fund.

The best performing single trust—beating even the gains of more than 20 p.c. in the Japanese Smaller Companies funds—was M & G's Midland & General with a gain of more than 30 p.c. Even with M & G's Gold fund tumbling by 20 p.c. the United Kingdom biased Midland & General left it in overall fourth position.

Gold trusts had been the worst performers of 1983, but their further fall this year gave no credence to the school which advocates picking last year's losers as this year's winners. Equally though, last year's winners were not this year's.

GT's European fund was the best performing trust in 1983, but like Schroder's European fund, showed only a modest gain in 1984. And GT's poor performing Technology & Growth fund means it joins Target at the bottom and means they won't be back in 1985's competition.

That, unfortunately is the nature of the competition, but we would emphasise that this is only a competition. Unit trust managers would not normally be forced to select investments for an exact 12 month period, and there can be a temptation

to gamble on a possible high-flyer just to be among the winners. There has to be an element of luck for the winners too—though they might not admit it too loudly.

It is worth pointing out that this year's winner, Save & Prosper, was second from bottom last year, and that this year's worst performer, Target, came second last year. More consistently, both TSB and Schroder have been in the top three this year and last.

So that's how they got on this year. Next week we will add new unit trust managers to the competition, and tell you what they are choosing for the new year. And 1985 should really test their skills.

HOW THE UNIT TRUST MANAGERS FARED

Manager	Trust	Original Investment	Value last night	Total
Save & Prosper	Inv Tst Units	£1,000	£1,038	£3,572
	Japan Smaller Cos	£2,000	£2,534	
Schroder	European	£1,000	£1,110	£3,550
	Japan Smaller Cos	£2,000	£2,440	
TSB	Selected Opportunities	£3,000	£3,516	£3,516
M&G	Gold & General	£1,000	£789	£3,431
	Midland & General	£2,000	£2,642	
Allied	Japan Trust	£3,000	£3,319	£3,319
Henderson	Capital Growth	£1,500	£1,732	£3,166
	Global Healthcare	£1,500	£1,434	
HFI Samuel	£2,000 of Japanese Tech switched to £1,970 of Dollar Trust	£2,000	£2,118	£3,164
	Special Situations	£1,000	£1,046	
Barclays Unicorn	Australia	£1,000	£828	£3,071
	Professional	£1,000	£1,159	
	Worldwide	£1,000	£1,092	
Britannia	American Growth	£1,000	£1,036	£2,919
	Far East	£1,000	£957	
	Gilt, Trust	£1,000	£926	
GT	European	£1,500	£1,586	£2,737
	Technology & Growth	£1,500	£1,151	
Target	£1,000 of Special Sit' switched to 1997 Gold; £1,000 of Malaysian switched to £902 of Pacific	£1,000	£812	£2,581
	Technology	£1,000	£970	
	Technology	£1,000	£800	

HUNT THE LAST POUND

NO pound notes will leave the Bank of England after Monday: no new notes are being issued in 1985 and the existing stock will be steadily withdrawn and replaced with coins.

So on Monday night we'll be closing the first round of our competition to find the final pound note in England. We are looking for the note with the highest number, and will be awarding our initial prize to the reader who has come up with that number by Monday's final post.

But don't worry if you can't get your entry to us by then: the competition will continue through January when we will be awarding further prizes to any notes with still higher numbers.

Though the Bank of England will not be issuing any further notes after the end of this year, the high street banks will have stocks of new notes that they can continue giving to the public even in 1985. So the last pound note in England might still not leave the Bank of England until Monday; it could be lying in a bank vault ready for release—or it could already be in your purse or in a shop till.

Wherever it is, we want you to find it.

And whoever has that note will have a valuable collectors' item, just like a rare stamp.

But while hundreds of new entries have come in for our competition over the past week—despite the holidays—our

highest note to beat has not progressed far. The highest number we gave last week was from the DY21 series, and so is this week's.

Indeed, it is only 8,980 notes higher than that of a week ago—despite the quantity of DY21 notes which readers have found.

There are one million notes in that series, but this week's leader, with just days to go before the first deadline falls, is only 857 notes from the end of

the series.

Instead, hang onto it (it could be valuable) and write giving us its number too: Last Note, Daily Telegraph City Office, 110, Queen Victoria Street, London, EC4P 4BS. Adding a phone number would help us check winners too.

Two readers have actually found us notes of higher numbers than the one here from the Reading reader, but we have yet to check them. But some readers may also find they have Somerset-signed notes with the letters M.N.

The Bank of England's numbering system is to use two letters, the first of which has progressed through A, B and C to D, together with a second letter from the second half of the alphabet.

A.N. is thus the first lettering sequence, and after the letters are a pair of numbers between 01 and 84, and for each combination of letters and numbers, a million notes are printed.

It might thus seem that M.N. notes come long after D.Y. notes. In fact, they were printed first and are effectively an experimental series used by the Bank for research. So these M.N. notes will not win our competition, but anyone finding one should hang on to it and keep it in good condition.

Like special or flawed stamps, these notes have their own value to collectors, and there is little doubt that such notes are worth more than their face value.

If you have got a higher numbered note, don't send it to us.

that series, so it seems highly likely that there are notes with DY22, DY23 or higher serial numbers. If you have one, it beats the number shown here and it could be a winner, so tell us.

Even one of those final DY21 notes with a number higher than this week's could be a winner. And any note with the letters DZ would be from a much later series.

But the note must be signed by the current Chief Cashier, D.H.F. Somerset, if it is one of the latest: so check the signature as well as the number.

If you have got a higher numbered note, don't send it to us.

highest number so far

DY 21 999162

CAN YOU BEAT IT?

YOUR STARS IN '85.

TR INCOME MONTHLY FUND



Make the most of your opportunities by investing in the TR Income Monthly Fund now—and you can look forward to a regular income on the first working day of every month. A yield of 8.1% is now within your grasp and the opportunities for capital growth look good. In fact, a glance into the past shows £1,000 invested in 75 would have brought you £1,383* in gross income and would now be worth £2,329*. Financial prospects look bright.

TR GLOBAL TECHNOLOGY FUND



Technology opportunities and excellent management are highlighted. One of Europe's largest specialist investors in technology could make this area a success for you. With selected technology shares offering outstanding value—and a record to date of 12.4% growth in the 11 weeks since launch, the outlook for the TR Global Technology Fund looks favourable. For growth it could be a star performer. A prosperous New Year is within sight.

*Performance statistics and estimated current gross yield at 21.12.84. Increase in unit price of £1.12.84.

The Touche, Remnant Unit Trust Management Limited, Marmalade House, 2 Pudding Lane, London EC4V 3AF. Telephone: 01-248 1234.

Please send me details of:

☐ TR Income Monthly Fund ☐ TR Global Technology Fund

Full Name

Address

Post Code

Signature

Date

(In the case of joint applications, all must sign on a separate sheet of paper.)

This offer is not open to residents of the Republic of Ireland.

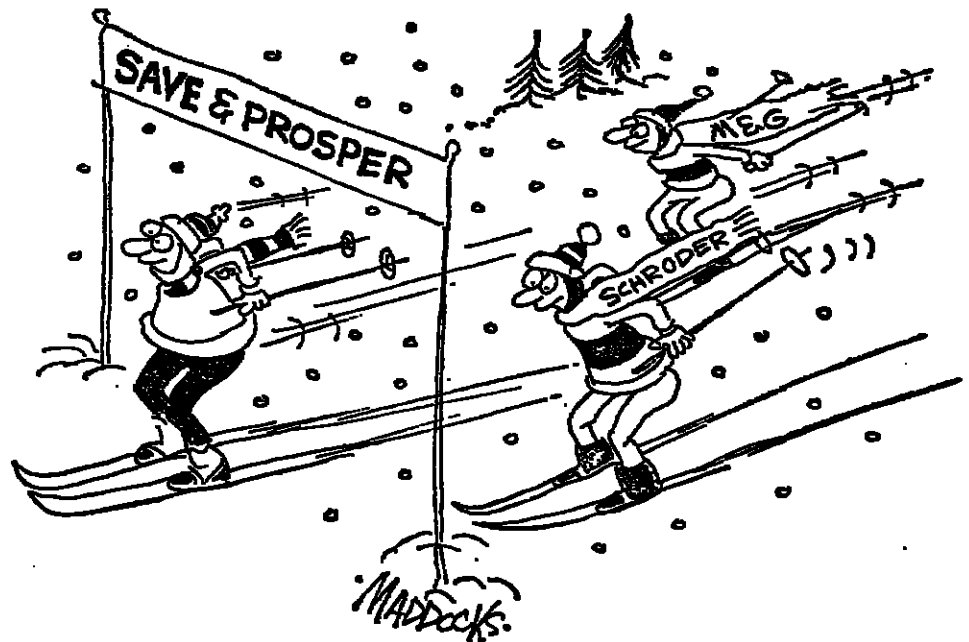
TR UNIT TRUSTS



TOUCHE REMNANT UNIT TRUSTS

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ON OTHER PAGES: The Experts on Where to Invest in 1985, P20; New Year Resolutions, P21; Saver's Choice and Unit Trust Prices, P22-23.



A VERY ORDINARY ACCOUNT

THIS is £1,741 million lying in National Savings Ordinary Accounts, but the rate of interest paid is a paltry 3 p.c. or 6 p.c. Next Monday and Tuesday will see a change of interest which of these two rate savers receive, however.

The rate normally paid by the Government on these Ordinary Accounts is 3 p.c., but for anyone whose balance exceeds £500 for the whole of a period from December 31 to the January 1 just over a year later, the rate is doubled.

So any sizeable balance that has been in such an account since December 31, 1983, will earn the 6 p.c. if it is left there until after Tuesday—though if it were left there until December 31, 1985, it would only earn the 3 p.c. The money must stay in the account for a year and a day and not just any year, any day, but a calendar year.

So any account with a balance that stays over £500 from Monday—New Year's Eve—right through until January 1, 1986, will earn the 6 p.c. The less there must be:

● If you want to get the 6 p.c. for 1985, open an account or get the balance over £500 by Monday.

● If you have had over £500 all year since last New Year's Eve, keep it there another few days.

● If you have an Ordinary Account balance but are sure it will fall below £500 during 1985, close the account at the start of the year and invest the funds at a better rate than 3 p.c.

But even at 6 p.c. it is questionable whether savers are best served with such an account. The inflexibility of having to maintain a balance not only for 12 months, but for the 12 months dictated by the Government, reduces the attraction of the account.

Some savers do use the account as they might a building society: making small deposits or withdrawals whenever necessary. Given that cash withdrawals can be made from post offices, there is a convenience there.

But though £100 can be withdrawn on demand, the passbook will be retained for any withdrawal of over £50, and that reduces the convenience. (Customers with accounts for over six months may be allowed to withdraw £250 a day from the post office where their account is held and keep the book, if they apply.)

The account is less flexible than most building society equivalents, therefore.

And the National Savings Ordinary Account pays interest only for complete calendar months. Cash deposited on December 31 and withdrawn on January 30 would earn nothing over those 58 days therefore, because there was no complete month.

So what advantages, if any, does the Ordinary Account have? The principal benefit is that the first £70 of interest is tax-free, so £1,167 deposited for the full year would generate that £70 at 6 p.c., and a standard rate taxpayer would have had to receive 8.57 p.c. net elsewhere to achieve that.

But he can get 8.57 p.c. net on far larger sums from a building society with none of the qualifications.

The rate would be worth 15 p.c. gross to a top rate taxpayer, however, so becomes worthwhile, and both husband and wife can receive the £70 tax-free.

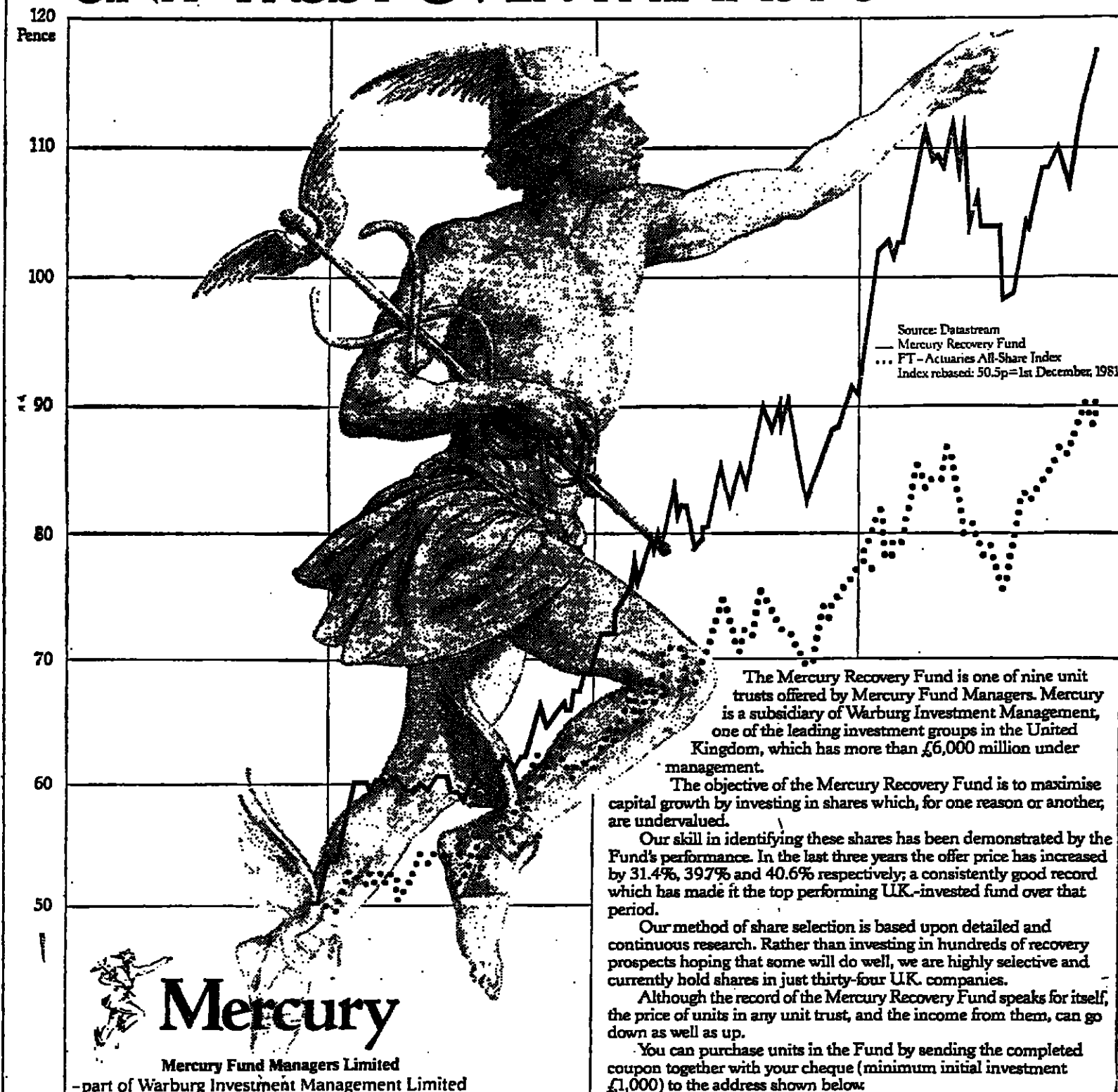
But any further interest is taxed at normal income tax rates. So a £2,000 deposit for a whole calendar year would leave a standard rate taxpayer with £105 interest, equal to a net 5.4 p.c. or equivalent to 7.2 p.c. gross. A top-rate taxpayer would be left with £98, worth 4.9 p.c. net or equivalent to 11.1 p.c. gross, which is not impossible to achieve less onerously from elsewhere.

And as the balance rises, the value of the interest falls. For £2,000 the standard rate taxpayer receives a net 4.9 p.c. worth 7 p.c. gross, and the top-rate taxpayer receives 3.8 p.c. net, worth 9.5 p.c. gross. That is nothing special.

So while now is the time to consider the Ordinary Account, perhaps that consideration should cause you to reject it.

Richard Northedge

THE BEST PERFORMING UK-INVESTED UNIT TRUST OVER THE PAST 3 YEARS*



The Mercury Recovery Fund is one of nine unit trusts offered by Mercury Fund Managers. Mercury is a subsidiary of Warburg Investment Management, one of the leading investment groups in the United Kingdom, which has more than £6,000 million under management.

The objective of the Mercury Recovery Fund is to maximise capital growth by investing in shares which, for one reason or another, are undervalued.

Our skill in identifying these shares has been demonstrated by the Fund's performance. In the last three years the offer price has increased by 31.4%, 39.7% and 40.6% respectively; a consistently good record which has made it the top performing UK-invested fund over that period.

Our method of share selection is based upon detailed and continuous research. Rather than investing in hundreds of recovery prospects hoping that some will do well, we are highly selective and currently hold shares in just thirty-four UK companies.

Although the record of the Mercury Recovery Fund speaks for itself, the price of units in any unit trust, and the income from them, can go down as well as up.

You can purchase units in the Fund by sending the completed coupon together with your cheque (minimum initial investment £1,000) to the address shown below.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The minimum initial investment in Mercury Recovery Fund is £1,000. Subsequent investments may be made in amounts of at least £100.

Units may be purchased or sold back at offer and bid prices calculated daily. Prices will be published daily in the Financial Times and the Daily Telegraph but without responsibility for any error in publication or for non-publication.

Contract notes will be issued within two days of receipt of application. Units can be realised at any time and payment will normally be made within seven days of receipt of the redemption certificate(s).

Management Charges: an initial charge of 5% is included in the offer price of units. The annual management charge is 1% (plus VAT) of the value of the Fund, which is charged initially against income and is taken into account when calculating the price of units. On giving three months' notice, the Managers would be permitted to increase this charge to a maximum of 1% (plus VAT). The Managers are also entitled to a rounding adjustment included in the bid and offer prices of up to 1% or 1.25p, whichever is the less.

Audited annual accounts will be sent to unitholders and a report on the progress of the Fund, together with a list of current holdings, will be sent to unitholders twice a year.

Income, net of basic rate tax, is distributed to unitholders half-yearly on 15th June and 15th December. The Managers also offer accumulation units.

Yield on the portfolio as at 30th November 1984: the estimated gross current yield was 4.48% per annum. However, the level of yield is not a primary consideration and may often fall below this figure.

Contributions are paid to qualified intermediaries and rates are available on request.

The Managers are Mercury Fund Managers Limited, a subsidiary of Warburg Investment Management Limited and a member of the Unit Trust Association. The Trustee is Williams & Glyn's Bank plc. The Fund is a UK Authorised Unit Trust and a "wider-range" investment under the Trustee Investments Act 1961.

The Mercury Fund Managers Limited, 23 Kings Wharf, London EC4R 9AS. Telephone: 01-280 2800. (Registered Office: registered in England, No. 1102517.)

I/We wish to purchase distribution/accumulation units in Mercury Recovery Fund to the value of £ (minimum initial investment £1,000) at the offer price ruling on receipt of my/our application.

A cheque made payable to Mercury Fund Managers Limited is enclosed.

I am/We are over 18 years of age.

Please tick this box for further details about Mercury Recovery Fund.

Please tick this box for information about the other Mercury Funds.

*Please direct to appropriate—otherwise distribution units will be allocated.

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FAMILY MONEY-GO-ROUND

Expert advice for 1985...

Brian Tora, Touche Renmant Financial Management.

AS we leave 1984 with the United Kingdom stock market at a record high level, and with the initial euphoria that surrounded British Telecom dying away, the early part of 1985 may have something of a hang-over quality to it.
I am not pessimistic for the UK market, and think that fundamentals will support current levels even if we get off to a bumpy start. The outlook for gilt edged looks quite cheerful, and base rates should fall by at least a further 1 p.c.
We are rather less enthusiastic about the United States where the budget deficit remains a major problem and economic growth has slowed considerably. In 1985 I feel inclined to leave the U.S. out of our list of recommendations, as I would Japan despite its importance in world market terms.
Hongkong has been very much in the news, and the mar-

We asked five experts in managing other investors' money what they recommend for 1985. Making profits would be too easy if they all agreed, but there is a pattern of conformity in their views.

ket seems to have recovered its poise. Share prices are likely to remain volatile.
The private investor should look at those unit trusts invested in the UK market with an above average yield and with some fixed interest exposure, such as our own Income Growth Trust. A Hongkong unit trust, such as Gartmore, could also be included, but perhaps with rather less money to reflect the higher risk. A resource account unit trust could also be included. I favour Rothschild's with its very successful record for commodity management.

Finally, I think Europe's stock markets should not be overlooked as values on many of the bourses, particularly Scandinavia and Switzerland, look cheap by world standards, whilst currency adjustments could enhance the return to the United Kingdom investor. Save & Prosper and GT both run successful, broadly based, European unit trusts.

Graham Mann, Grieseson Grant & Co., Stockbrokers

The biggest question of 1985 still concerns the future of the United States economy. The apparently insoluble budget problem is likely to remain a negative influence, producing as it does high interest rates and an overvalued dollar.

United Kingdom equities are at an absolute high and could be a little vulnerable in the short run, but basic values remain sound. Our bias remains towards quality growth stocks, particularly those linked to the consumer.

We would commit about half of portfolios to good quality United Kingdom equities. Japan's market seems less worried about United States developments than perhaps should be the case. The economic numbers remain impressive but they are expected to turn down in the second half of 1985, while the level of the market already reflects a continuation of strong growth. Japan remains the world's most efficient major economy and the currency still promises profits against sterling, but we would reduce portfolio weighting to no more than 10 p.c.

Europe's economies have recovered more slowly from the recession but look set to achieve very acceptable growth in 1985. We would commit up to 20 p.c. of portfolios to Europe, through a successful unit trust.

Despite our hesitant comments about the United States, the market is not expensively rated and we would commit about 10 p.c. of portfolios there. The balance of about 10 p.c. we would hold on deposit to react to opportunities such as TSB and British Airways.

Richard Bernays, Mercury Fund Managers and Warburg Investment Management.

THE dull market in the United States during the past year has left interesting opportunities for 1985. The stock market continues to look undervalued.

We believe that Japan will continue in the vanguard of the technological revolution and the fundamental attractions of Japanese industry remain unchanged.

Perhaps the major determining factor for the beginning of next year will be the outlook for the level of domestic consumer expenditure. There is evidence of slowing export growth and also fierce competition in areas such as semi-conductors. We therefore approach 1985 with a certain amount of caution, and would expect to see a correction after the current end-of-year run. Later the Japanese market could advance to new highs.

The United Kingdom stock market has now had its third consecutive year of substantial gains and further progress can be expected next year. The relative weakness of sterling should continue to benefit profits. Europe's stock markets look well set to break new ground in 1985.

There is a lot to be said in favour of the private investor selecting a general fund with wide discretion as to its areas of investment—an example of such a fund in our stable would be the Mercury International Fund.

A more specific investment suggestion would be the Mercury European Fund as we feel that the prospects for the European markets in 1985 are particularly good.

Glynne Clay, Richard Longstaff Unit Trust

Portfolio Management.

1984 WAS an excellent year for the United Kingdom stock market and it is hard to imagine the same dynamic performance in 1985, even if one does substitute British Aerospace and TSB for British Telecom.

Undoubtedly many excellent profit figures are still to come through, benefiting from the weak Sterling rate. But a pause for breath in the New Year will be no surprise. Specifically, most recovery funds have recovered and most growth stocks grown, so it may be safer to turn to income and asset funds like Henderson's, or one of the specialist funds.

The United States does, at last, seem to be taking a hard look at itself and its monetary policies, although by the per-

formance of Wall Street, the Americans themselves cannot yet see the wood for the trees. A fund with a high yield, the Save & Prosper's American Income & Growth, with a heavy leaning towards convertible loan stocks, whilst at the other end of the spectrum is the G.T. Technology & Growth, a poor performer in 1984, with a minimum return of income. United States high-tech may be 1985's high flyer.

Japan looks to us to be a good long term banker, with no inflation to speak of and a currency advantage (tr the new Charterhouse J. Rothschild Japan Fund based in Bermuda) but, like the United Kingdom, not immediately cheap. On the other hand, European funds are on very low ratings by our standards. Mercury's European Fund run by Consuelo Brooke looks excellent value.

John Savage, Hoare Govett Unit Trust Advisory Service.

REFLECTING on 1984 is a fairly pleasant task. The F.T. All-Share Index has gained 23 p.c. and Japan, currency adjusted, has made an investor 38 p.c. Wall Street has barely moved, but the dollar gained a further 16 p.c. against sterling.

Can equity markets in 1985 be so kind? I think not, although returns could still compare favourably with the domestic inflation rate of around 5 p.c.

Investors have responded favourably to the recent cuts in United States money rates. The "bullish" view is that the retrenchment process is over and that further monetary easing is inevitable.

We would not be so sure. The President is not going to find it easy to solve the budget deficit problem and we do not see the Fed risking dollar weakness with the United States external trade account so chronically out of balance.

We think it may be closer to the middle of 1985 before a convincing and meaningful credit easing is initiated. In the meantime the now accepted low rates of inflation in the major economies and overall economic progress may not be sufficient to provide equity investors with renewed enthusiasm.

Against this background we would recommend a defensive stance in the very short term. Income producing unit trusts, even for "growth" investors, such as Save & Prosper High Return, Montagu United Special Income and Govett Pacific Income could well prove attractive in the months ahead.

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FAMILY MONEY-GO-ROUND

CHECKING FINANCIAL HEALTH

HAVING survived Christmas, the turkey, and the relatives, it is time to get down to the serious business—how to make the same amount of money stretch a lot further in 1985 than it did in 1984.

This is not a get-rich-quick guide as the chances are that you will never fashion a fortune if you have to read about how to do it first. Rather it is a checklist for those savers or investors who resent paying any more than is absolutely necessary and who get particular enjoyment from being able to beat the system, legally, of course.

All it requires is a little bit of financial reorganisation. And what better time to do it? Too much eating, too much merry-making, and the nagging conscience is already beginning to flash red warning lights. Fortunately, everybody knows logging is dangerous, but running a quick financial health check could be just the answer.

Think about it: the exercise should be highly profitable, does not require anything like the same amount of physical effort and even better, you have a number of ready-made New Year's resolutions.

You will not make enough to keep you in champagne for the next 12 months, but even if you follow some of the tips given below you should be able to afford at least a bottle or two and enjoy the drinking even more with the knowledge that the champagne has cost you nothing.

1—Top of your New Year's bargain shopping list could be a new bank manager, particularly if you bank at Barclays, Natwest or Lloyds. Only last month, the Midland did the decent thing and abolished all charges for those who keep in credit.

Nicely timed for Christmas it

RESOLUTIONS

Niall Sweeney suggests some New Year resolutions which could prove profitable.

may well have been, but a philanthropic gesture it was certainly not; the Midland wants new customers. Of course, you may be a customer of the Yorkshire Bank, Williams & Glyn's, or the Co-op and so already enjoy free banking. But if you are one of the 50 p.c. of clearing bank customers who currently pay charges, this could be a most propitious switch, assuming that you can actually keep in credit.

The deciding factor is how much you value your present bank manager. Ask yourself how much you think he is worth the next time you have to pay bank charges.

2—Talking of bank accounts, make sure you keep your TSB account open, whatever you do. We already know that customers who had an account on December 17 will receive preferential treatment when the shares are offered to the public.

Even if you do not have an account there yourself, someone in the family may still have an account languishing somewhere with a princely sum of at least five shillings to the good. It will take some tracking down, but the effort could make you some money. Don't wait until the prospectus has been issued—it will be too late then.

3—If you have a mortgage, you will have been pleased

to see that the mortgage rate has fallen by about one percentage point or so. It is at times like this that many repayment mortgage borrowers try to maintain their payments at the higher level so as to reduce the term. Laudable as this might be, it is wrong.

You should be reducing the standing order payment and investing the balance on a monthly basis into a subscription account. Then just before the building society's accounting year-end, withdraw all the money from the subscription account, together with the accumulated interest, and make a once-off payment against your mortgage.

It is a bit more fiddly, but more effective as a means of reducing the mortgage term. 4—While on the subject of mortgages, now is the time to take advantage of the societies' embarrassment at being flush with funds but with not a borrower in sight. Differential mortgage rates are being swiftly eroded once again, and you should be able to get loans for purposes other than house purchase and improvement (although not necessarily the mortgage interest relief as well).

So if you were caught out by the huge differentials a few months ago when money was tight, now is the time to consider a remortgage with another society or one of the banks. Likewise, if you want a loan for a car or the school fees, make the building society manager your first port of call. The rate is a lot cheaper than can be obtained elsewhere and you can have a much longer term which reduces the monthly repayments significantly.

5—Have you noticed how societies keep launching new accounts? So all the money you invested a few months ago in the best account at the time is

no longer receiving the highest rate of interest? Super-savers don't fall for that one—you need to watch the rates like a hawk and don't commit your money for too long a period.

6—For the self-employed or those with any non-pensionable earnings, a good buy—courtesy of the taxman—could be the personal computer. You have always promised yourself, as a "plant and machinery" item, it will qualify for 75 p.c. capital allowances, but only if you buy it before April 1. After that the rate of allowance reduces to 50 p.c.

7—Whatever the Chancellor decides to do about the tax reliefs on pensions, the one certainty is that they are not going to be extended in spite of all the 'hype', a pension contribution before the Budget will be a good buy.

8—The January sales have started early this year and the bargain hunters are already out in force. But how do you know whether you are getting the best price at any other time of the year? What you do is you ring Comp-U-card (0735 68191), which is basically a computerised shopping service by telephone. I've tried it and friends have tried it, and it seems to work.

The service costs £20 a year, but you could more than make that up in the discounts received during the year, and there is currently a special three month free introductory period.

9—In the unit trust sector, the Target Professional Fund must represent a bargain buy for those who can invest a minimum of £1,500. The initial charge is a modest 2½ p.c. but the Target group as a whole offers 4 p.c. switching discount. Sch... don't tell anyone else.

10—Finally, make sure you check your £1 notes. Have you got the last one?

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Super Shares (7th issue)	8.50	12.14
Super Shares (8th issue)	8.50	12.14
Super Shares (9th issue)	8.50	12.14
Super Shares (10th issue)	8.50	12.14
Super Shares (11th issue)	8.50	12.14
Super Shares (12th issue)	8.50	12.14
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Switch On.

These days, to achieve a superior rate of return it's vital to move your investments around the world as market conditions change and as new growth opportunities arise.

There is, however, a major drawback to pursuing an active international investment policy. The cost (and inconvenience) of switching funds can soon become burdensome when dealing charges, stamp duties and capital gains tax are all taken into account.

Financial Times - "Globe Trotting on the Cheap"

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An international portfolio

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The Daily Telegraph - "A new type of capital investment" and "A top drawer unit trust"

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COMPARATIVE PERFORMANCE TABLE £10,000 invested at the launch of M&G Recovery Fund compared with the FT. Indices, the Retail Price Index and an extra-interest account in a Building Society offering 1½% above the average yearly rate.

Year to 31st Dec.	M&G Recovery Fund	FT. All Share Index	FT. Industrial Ordinary Index	Retail Price Index	Building Society
23 May 69	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000
1969	11,360	9,807	9,828	10,019	10,373
1970	11,760	8,570	9,536	11,020	11,058
1971	19,200	12,110	13,773	12,012	11,789
1972	26,640	13,006	13,983	12,930	12,568
1973	22,720	9,212	11,249	14,300	13,604
1974	15,120	4,637	5,232	17,041	14,856
1975	26,400	11,121	12,934	21,283	16,178
1976	27,200	10,835	12,823	24,490	17,569
1977	59,600	15,680	19,127	27,464	19,094
1978	74,240	15,688	20,298	29,781	20,610
1979	89,200	14,498	22,000	34,398	22,714
1980	102,560	17,287	28,967	40,175	25,521
1981	120,000	20,209	32,420	45,015	28,287
1982	114,240	23,539	41,166	47,449	31,196
1983	162,720	31,638	52,337	49,971	33,822
19 Dec 84	207,440	39,652	67,099	52,405	36,769

NOTES: Figures for M&G Recovery the FT. Indices and the Building Society include reinvested net income. Figures for M&G Recovery show the realisation values.

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Unit Trusts are an excellent method of investing in the various stockmarkets of the world, and are ideal for regular investment over the longer term. They are not suitable for money you may need at short notice.

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Your Savings Plan subscriptions go into Accumulation units of the Fund you choose and income is reinvested automatically after basic rate tax. Further details of the Funds and

the rules of the plan are available on request. All the Funds are wider-range securities and are authorised by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry.

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M&G Dividend	2,170	7,298	15,621
M&G Recovery	1,815	8,356	21,846
M&G SECOND	1,985	7,132	14,828
FT. Industrial Ordinary Index	2,039	5,923	10,364
Building Society Savings Account	1,504	3,845	7,184

Source: Planned Savings. All performance figures include income reinvested net of basic rate tax. The figures for the M&G Funds are 'bid' prices. You should remember that past performance is no guarantee for the future.

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SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

Signature of Signatory No. 30716. Signature must be witnessed by a resident of the Republic of Ireland.

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First December 1984 1985.

To: James Law, TSB Unit Trusts Limited, FREEPOST, Keen House, Andover, Hampshire SP10 1BR. (No stamp required) Tel: Andover 0246 62188.

Please send me full details of your Daily Telegraph Unit Trust Manager's Competition entry for 1985.

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AUTHORISED TRUSTS

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High/Low	Name	Unit Price	Offer
125.0	Abbey American Tr.	124.0	125.0
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DISCRETIONARY UNIT

SHERWOOD MAY TRIUMPH IN WINTER CLASH

By HOTSPUR (Peter Scott)

OLIVER SHERWOOD, formerly assistant trainer to Fred Winter and that stable's chief amateur rider, has an intriguing clash with Winter when he saddles The Breener against Sutton Prince in the Challow Hurdle at Newbury today.

The Breener can win it for Sherwood, who is now one of Winter's neighbouring trainers in Upper Lambourn. He came from Ireland to join Sherwood's newly-formed stable this season, and was twice successful at Newbury last month.

The Breener showed impressive finishing speed in both races and may outpace Sutton Prince, whose three wins have been over longer distances.

Races on TV

1.0 NEWBURY	BBC
1.20 Ayr	ITV
1.30 NEWBURY	BBC
1.50 Ayr	ITV
2.0 NEWBURY	BBC
2.30 Ayr	ITV
2.50 NEWBURY	BBC

TODAY'S NEWBURY SELECTIONS

HOTSPUR	CORR	FORM
12.30-Drumadowny 1.0-Sutton Prince (nap)	1.30-DALBURY (nap)	1.30-Pradeaux Boy
1.30-Iskhmann 2.0-Bramble	2.30-Glen Berg	2.30-Glen Berg
2.30-Glen Berg 3.0-Ace of Spies	3.0-Ace of Spies	3.0-Ace of Spies

HOTSPUR'S DOUBLE-The Breener and Sutton Prince (1.30, Ayr). TOSTY STAFFORD-Iskhmann (1.30).

up for the Challow Hurdle but he shall be disappointed if The Breener is defeated.

Iskhmann can continue the winning run of John Spear's Warwickshire stable with success in the L'oreal Handicap Hurdle. Pradeaux Boy came from Cornwall to win the Mecca Bookmakers Hurdle at Sandown Park four weeks ago. He would look a big threat to Iskhmann had that work worked out better.

Bramble improves
Green Bramble's jumping has improved and he will be hard to beat in the Weyhill Handicap Chase. Ace of Spies, who was out of the Gloom at Chesham last Saturday, recommends him for the Wickham Novices' Hurdle. Frost cancelled yesterday, but no official inspections are planned for today's three fixtures.

Brunton Park should win the Gintrol Hurdle at Chesham. He had a recent Catterick Bridge race at his mercy when falling at the last fence.

The injured Cybriandian may have to miss this season's Cheltenham Gold Cup but Peter Easterby's horses are generally in good form. Karonmore (12.30) and L'oreal (2.30) look set to continue their winning sequences for all at Ayr.

Ra Nova, a disappointing fourth yesterday's Racing

Joy Ride lands odds in 'Salmon Spray'
JOY RIDE landed the odds in yesterday's Fontwell Park race named after the Champion Hurdler Salmon Spray but Cheltenham's big March meeting is unlikely to be on his agenda.

"He may have a rest now," said Joy Ride's trainer, Jeff King. "I think his main objective this season will be to race at Liverpool because Cheltenham probably wouldn't suit him."

There was an ironic twist to King's suggestion. He was asked to the stable of Salmon Spray's trainer, Bob Turner, in his riding days but turned his only placing in the Champion Hurdle when he rode for Turner in 1969 to the John Haine-ridden Salmon Spray.

Joy Ride was set up yesterday but he had to be kept up to his work by Steve Smith-Eccles to hold John Frayne's vigorous finish on Averon by half a length.

First for McGhin
"Joy Ride goes to win and then think he's done enough," said King, who has won 19,000 guineas out of Bruce Robb's stable at Doncaster Sales in September.

Ray McGhin, who once quit Flat racing to become a postman, rode his first National Hunt winner when Young Bucklers, a trained length victory over Media Boy in the Brighton Novices' Hurdle (Div. 1).

to Brown's Gazette in the Ladbrooke Christmas Hurdle at Kempton Park on Boxing Day, will seek to redeem himself in the New Year's Day Hurdle at Windsor next Tuesday.

Mrs Nan Kennedy, Ra Nova's trainer, thinks that the combination of sticky ground and cold weather, which he does not like, may have caused this five-year-old to run so badly at Kempton.

Ra Nova failed to confirm the form of winning yesterday's season against Desert Orchid and See You Then.

Ra Nova's Champion Hurdle odds lengthened from 9-1 to 20-1 as a result of his Kempton Park display, which caused Mrs Kennedy to give him precautionary blood tests.

Mrs Mercy Rimell is still awaiting results of yesterday's blood tests taken on Gave Brief, the Champion Hurdle second favourite.

If these are satisfactory, Gave Brief will either oppose Ra Nova at Windsor on Tuesday, or tackle the following afternoon's Food Brokers, Ferrero Rocher Hurdle at Cheltenham.

HOTSPUR'S "TWELVE"
Brunton Park (1.30 Ayr) is the only horse to have won the double in the past 10 years.

New stable
Taylor has recently set up a new stable with 30 boxes and an all-weather gallop near Frensham, into which Peter Taylor (his relation) will move next week.

Rhyme "N" Reason, who ended last season with five consecutive wins, has been bought by a new owner, a successful first appearance for his new trainer David Murray-Smith in the Northover Hurdle at Chesham.

Backed from 11-2 to 2-1, he carried out a superb performance in the hands of his regular jockey Graham Bradley, who overcame traffic problems on the inside of the day. Bradley turned round almost straight away in order to ride at Ayr today.

Course Specialists
NEWBURY
Course winners: 1.0 (12.30) 120y. 1.30 (1.30) 120y. 2.0 (2.30) 120y. 2.30 (2.30) 120y. 3.0 (3.0) 120y. 3.30 (3.30) 120y. 4.0 (4.0) 120y. 4.30 (4.30) 120y. 5.0 (5.0) 120y. 5.30 (5.30) 120y. 6.0 (6.0) 120y. 6.30 (6.30) 120y. 7.0 (7.0) 120y. 7.30 (7.30) 120y. 8.0 (8.0) 120y. 8.30 (8.30) 120y. 9.0 (9.0) 120y. 9.30 (9.30) 120y. 10.0 (10.0) 120y. 10.30 (10.30) 120y. 11.0 (11.0) 120y. 11.30 (11.30) 120y. 12.0 (12.0) 120y. 12.30 (12.30) 120y. 13.0 (13.0) 120y. 13.30 (13.30) 120y. 14.0 (14.0) 120y. 14.30 (14.30) 120y. 15.0 (15.0) 120y. 15.30 (15.30) 120y. 16.0 (16.0) 120y. 16.30 (16.30) 120y. 17.0 (17.0) 120y. 17.30 (17.30) 120y. 18.0 (18.0) 120y. 18.30 (18.30) 120y. 19.0 (19.0) 120y. 19.30 (19.30) 120y. 20.0 (20.0) 120y. 20.30 (20.30) 120y. 21.0 (21.0) 120y. 21.30 (21.30) 120y. 22.0 (22.0) 120y. 22.30 (22.30) 120y. 23.0 (23.0) 120y. 23.30 (23.30) 120y. 24.0 (24.0) 120y. 24.30 (24.30) 120y. 25.0 (25.0) 120y. 25.30 (25.30) 120y. 26.0 (26.0) 120y. 26.30 (26.30) 120y. 27.0 (27.0) 120y. 27.30 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Today's League Games

(Kick off 3 unless stated)

CANON LGE—Div I

1 Chelsea v Man Utd
2 Coventry v West Ham
3 Ipswich v Everton
4 Liverpool v Luton
5 Newcastle v Arsenal
6 Nottm F v Aston Villa
7 Southampton v Sheff Wed
8 Stoke v QPR
9 Tottenham v Sunderland
10 Watford v Leicester
11 W Bromwich v Norwich

DIVISION II

12 Barnsley v Notts Co
13 Birmingham v Fulham
14 Blackburn v Bournemouth
15 Brighton v Wimbledon
16 Charlton v Grimsby
17 Leeds v Cardiff
18 Man City v Wolves
19 Middlesbrough v Oldham
20 Oxford v C Palace
21 Sheff Utd v Portsmouth
22 Shrewsbury v Carlisle

DIVISION III

23 Bradford v Bolton
24 Brentford v Reading
25 Bristol C v Burnley
26 Cambridge v Bath
27 Gillingham v Bristol R
28 Millwall v Bournemouth
29 Newport v Plymouth
30 Orient v Doncaster
31 Swans v Derby
32 Walsall v Lincoln
33 Wigan v Preston
34 York v Hull

DIVISION IV

35 Aldershot v Wrexham
36 Blackpool v Hartlepool
37 Bury v Tranmere (3.15)
38 Chester v Swinton
39 Chesterfield v Peterborough
40 Darlington v Crewe
41 Exeter v Hereford
42 Gillingham v Stockport (Postponed)
43 Northampton v Torquay
44 Scunthorpe v Rochdale
45 Southend v Mansfield

SCOTTISH LGE—Prem Div

46 Celtic v Dundee U
47 Dunbarton v Rangers
48 Dundee v Hibernian
49 Hearts v Morton
50 St Mirren v Aberdeen

SCOTTISH LGE—Div I

51 Albion v Meadowbank
52 Brechin v Clyde
53 Falkirk v East Fife
54 Hamilton v Motherwell
55 Kilmarnock v Motherwell
56 Partick v Forfar
57 St Johnstone v Clydebank

SCOTTISH LGE—Div II

58 Albion v Queen's Pk
59 Alloa v Stirling
60 Arbroath v Raith
61 Berwick v Stranraer
62 Cowdenbeath v Stenhousemuir
63 Montrose v Q of South
64 Stirling v Dunfermline

HALIFAX OFF

Today's Fourth Division match between Halifax and Stockport County has been postponed. The Football League have given Halifax permission to call the game off because ten of their 18 professionals, either have influenza or are showing symptoms.

LOAN DEBUT

Martin Singleton, the Coventry mid-fielder, has signed on loan for four Division leaders Bradford City.

ARSENAL SIGN SOUTHAMPTON'S WILLIAMS

By ROGER MALONE

ARSENAL finally "got their man" last night—completing the signing of Steve Williams, Southampton's midfield star, for a fee reported to be in excess of £500,000.

So ended an involved month of unrest at Southampton and negotiations between the two clubs, sparked by Williams, 26, declaring that 10 years with Saints was enough, and that he wanted to move. The club's board eventually and reluctantly agreed to the move.

OXFORD SET TO SIGN McDERMOTT

By BILL MEREDITH

OXFORD, determined to maintain their Second Division promotion challenge, are set to sign Brian McDermott, 23, the Arsenal midfield player.

Jim Smith, the Oxford manager, hopes to complete the £200,000 deal in time for his team's FA Cup match at Shrewsbury next weekend. McDermott has played 60 League games for Arsenal but has not made a first team appearance this season.

Rhodes-Brown recall

Oxford, 4-0 winners over Cardiff on Boxing Day, recall Peter Rhodes-Brown, the former Chelsea winger, for their home match with Crystal Palace today. Rhodes-Brown has completed a three-match suspension.

Wolves, in dire trouble near the bottom of the Second Division, drop David Evans, who cost £35,000 from Southampton, and introduce full-back David Haywood, 17, for their visit to Manchester City.

Portsmouth, even in points with Cardiff in fourth place, will be without strikers Nick Morgan and Alan Bailey (whose two late goals beat Oxford last week) against Sheffield United at Bramall Lane.

Morgan (hip) and Bailey (back) are both injured and manager Alan Ball has named Scott McGarvey and new signings Dave Bamber and Paul Surgen in his squad.

Wolves have signed Perry Digweed, the Brighton goal-keeper, on a month's loan. With Tony Lange, Charlton need cover for Nicky Johns, who plays against Grimsby at The Valley.

HEREFORD BLOW

Hereford have suffered a major blow for next week's FA Cup match with Arsenal. Their captain, John Deacon, has suffered a knee injury and will be out of action for 12 weeks.

FOOTBALL RESULTS

CANON LEAGUE—Div. IV

Colchester (2) 3 Port Vale (0) 3
Gravesend 2 (pen) A. Brown
Bowen (2 pens) Smith 2-0

FOOTBALL COACH—C. Palmer 3.

SCOTTISH LGE—Div. I

Celtic 2 Hearts 1
Dundee 1 Hibernian 0
St Mirren 1 Aberdeen 0
Albion 1 Queen's Pk 0
Alloa 1 Stirling 0
Arbroath 1 Raith 0
Berwick 1 Stranraer 0
Cowdenbeath 1 Stenhousemuir 0
Montrose 1 Q of South 0
Stirling 1 Dunfermline 0

FOOTBALL COACH—C. Palmer 3.

SCOTTISH LGE—Div. II

Celtic 2 Hearts 1
Dundee 1 Hibernian 0
St Mirren 1 Aberdeen 0
Albion 1 Queen's Pk 0
Alloa 1 Stirling 0
Arbroath 1 Raith 0
Berwick 1 Stranraer 0
Cowdenbeath 1 Stenhousemuir 0
Montrose 1 Q of South 0
Stirling 1 Dunfermline 0

FOOTBALL COACH—C. Palmer 3.

SCOTTISH LGE—Div. III

Celtic 2 Hearts 1
Dundee 1 Hibernian 0
St Mirren 1 Aberdeen 0
Albion 1 Queen's Pk 0
Alloa 1 Stirling 0
Arbroath 1 Raith 0
Berwick 1 Stranraer 0
Cowdenbeath 1 Stenhousemuir 0
Montrose 1 Q of South 0
Stirling 1 Dunfermline 0

FOOTBALL COACH—C. Palmer 3.

SCOTTISH LGE—Div. IV

Celtic 2 Hearts 1
Dundee 1 Hibernian 0
St Mirren 1 Aberdeen 0
Albion 1 Queen's Pk 0
Alloa 1 Stirling 0
Arbroath 1 Raith 0
Berwick 1 Stranraer 0
Cowdenbeath 1 Stenhousemuir 0
Montrose 1 Q of South 0
Stirling 1 Dunfermline 0

FOOTBALL COACH—C. Palmer 3.

SCOTTISH LGE—Div. V

Celtic 2 Hearts 1
Dundee 1 Hibernian 0
St Mirren 1 Aberdeen 0
Albion 1 Queen's Pk 0
Alloa 1 Stirling 0
Arbroath 1 Raith 0
Berwick 1 Stranraer 0
Cowdenbeath 1 Stenhousemuir 0
Montrose 1 Q of South 0
Stirling 1 Dunfermline 0

Debut delayed

Subject to the League and FA accepting the transfer details, Williams will make his debut in Tuesday's North London derby with Tottenham.

When Southampton lowered their price, Williams changed his tune to "the club are now playing fair with my future" and he returned to the side against Watford on Boxing Day.

He had been named in the squad for today's match against Sheffield Wednesday, the news came that agreement on the fee had not been reached.

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Byrd (13) of Murray Internationals outflanks Griffiths of Solent to pass to team-mate Archibald (10). Solent lost this Philips International 67-54.

Pates back to face Manchester United

COLIN PATES, recovered from an abdominal strain, and Nigel Spackman, prepared to ignore his Boxing Day broken nose, take their places today in a Chelsea squad aiming to end one of the best years in their history in spectacular fashion, writes Roger Malone.

Anticipating a Stamford Bridge crowd in excess of 40,000, Chelsea with only six defeats in 39 League games since 1984, seek the scalp of Manchester United, whom they held to a 1-1 draw at Old Trafford in September.

Pates returns to central defence, Spackman looks to soldier on in the right half, while Gordon Davies and David Speedie in attack.

United, aware three successive away League defeats keep them two points behind leaders Tottenham, recall Paul McGrath to defend, but may lack Jesper Olsen who is unfit, while Gordon Strachan takes a late test.

Huddle back

Tottenham back to Glenn Hoddle, restored after injuries, to scheme revenge over Sunderland at home to Queens Park Rangers, who are unbeaten in three League matches since their 3-0 Cup success at White Hart Lane.

Reigning champions Liverpool react sharply to their shock home defeat by Leicester, dropping Johnston and Moby against Luton and giving Kevin MacDonald, their £200,000 signing from Leicester six weeks ago, his debut.

Michael Robinson, who left Liverpool for Queens Park Rangers for £125,000, is not certain to play at Stoke.

Frank Sibley, the caretaker manager makes a late decision, as it is two months since Robinson played First Division football.

With Joe Corrigan returning to Brighton because his loan-spell has not resulted in a full-time, Stoke recall apprentice Stuart Roberts, 19, to goal.

Arsenal's left-back Ken Sansom misses the Newcastle trip with a groin strain.

BROOKING SIGNS FOR RAINHAM

By NEIL SCOTT

TREVOR BROOKING, the former West Ham and England midfielder, has signed for Rainham, the struggling Servotarm Division II club, and plans to play for them in the New Year.

Brooking, 29, who was not safe until Colin McNeill grabbed a rebound from time after a Swedish shot missed. Their Solent kit was recovered in time for the game but East Wilson, the England women's manager, who is a Manchester detective, it was in a stolen car in Moss Side.

Kington, who plan talks with Solent despatching Johnson, were seen leaving the international Martin Clark, who slammed the door.

Polished image

Another famous football name, Sir Stanley Matthews, has accepted an invitation to become President of Isthmian Division I club Walton, Sir Stanley 70 on Feb. 1, is coaching in Canada and will return to England on Feb. 6.

Walton, clearly intent on giving their image a polish, have also persuaded Charlie Cooke, the former Chelsea and Scotland midfielder player, to become a vice-president.

Barton, still unbeaten after 21 Isthmian Premier Division matches, will be at full strength at home to Bognor Regis, Hayes, in second place, face a hard test at Worthing, living four.

Paul Harding, a striker, plays his full game for Dulwich at Billericay after scoring three goals against Tooting on Boxing Day.

Sad Solent fall to Scots stars

By RICHARD TAYLOR

BRITISH clubs made a steady start at this season's Philips International tournament at Crystal Palace, although Murray Internationals of Scotland went through at the expense of troubled English champions Solent Stars.

Solent, facing closure unless the Receiver finds a buyer, lost 67-54 and played without Tony Watson who has joined American Dan Callaghan and left low England International John Johnson's departure from the club because they have not been paid.

Nightingale Kingston, many observers' favourite to take Solent's title, won 107-101 against Leverkusen, while Cottrell Manchester survived a narrow defeat to Swedish champion Solna 79-76. The first day of the eighth Philips was remarkable in that there were no hiccups, no walk-outs and none of the rows that have made Europe's largest club basketball event such a rich hunting ground on and off the court.

Four foul out

Blue is definitely the mood at Solent, where coach Jim Kelly said: "The club has no more potential sponsors but I have heard that before. The longer this goes on, the more players we will lose."

Manchester, who play Athletics in action in today's other quarter final, had four players foul out against Solent, and they were not safe until Colin McNeill grabbed a rebound from time after a Swedish shot missed.

Their Solent kit was recovered in time for the game but East Wilson, the England women's manager, who is a Manchester detective, it was in a stolen car in Moss Side.

Kington, who plan talks with Solent despatching Johnson, were seen leaving the international Martin Clark, who slammed the door.

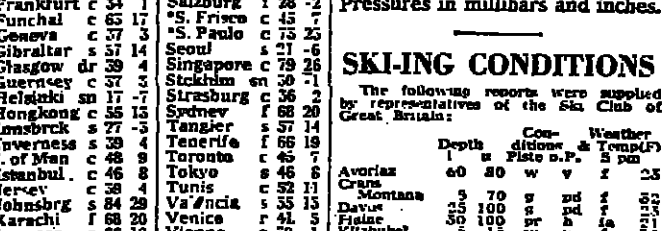
Reprieve for Monte rally

The French Motor Sports Federation (F.F.S.A.) yesterday gave the go-ahead for the Monte Carlo Rally—the day after the organising Automobile Club of Monaco with 100 cars had called off the 1985 event.

In a communique issued after a special meeting of its executive committee, the F.F.S.A. said it had agreed the Rally could be staged under conditions similar to those of 1981.

The A.C.M. announced on Thursday that it was cancelling the event, due to start on Jan. 26, because of what it regarded as "unacceptable conditions" set by the F.F.S.A.

ATLANTIC WEATHER—Noon Dec. 28



High "U" will intensify and move a little north-east. Lows "C" and "G" will move slowly north-east and fill. Lows "E" and "F" will remain slow moving with little change. High "T" will lose its identity.

HOME AND ABROAD

Akrotiri	53.15	London	52.0
Athens	54.15	London	52.0
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BRITISH ISLES

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43.5	99	Cloudy
43.5	100	Cloudy

